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THURSDAY, JULY 17TH, 2014

**Young mum Kirsty in  
campaign for charity**  
Page 3

**YOUR CHANCE TO WIN £25 TO SPEND  
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See Page 10 for details of our weekly competition...

**The Bridgend Show**  
– picture special  
Page 9 and 25

## From Marble Arch to Arc de Triomphe for breast cancer funds WHY SURGEON RICHARD IS ON A MARATHON CYCLE RIDE CHALLENGE FOR HIS PATIENTS

A LOCAL hospital consultant will be taking part in the 'Arch to Arc' cycle ride from London to Paris later this month.

Richard Johnson, a consultant breast surgeon at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, is well into his training for the gruelling 350-mile challenge, which will see him raise money for the breast endowment funds POW and Neath Port Talbot hospitals have run for many years.

The event starts in Marble Arch on July 23 and ends at the Arc de Triomphe on July 26, the day before the Tour de France finishes.

He explained: "We'll be covering 80-90 miles a day, but the final stage will be 26 miles into the centre of Paris."

"I've done a bit of cycling over the last couple of years – short distances after work to get some fresh air and clear my head, but nothing more serious than that, until now."

"My brother asked me about it during my daughter's 18th birthday party and I agreed. There will be a small group of us going, as part of his firm's annual charity ride."

Richard has been training since before Christmas and is now clocking up about 120 miles a week: "It's actually quite good fun. I'm getting fitter and losing weight."

"I'm doing a lot of hill work at the moment. Fortunately, the route is (I'm told, relatively flat), but even so, I don't think Chris Froome has

anything to worry about."

Sponsorship forms are available in both hospitals for staff and patients who would like to support Richard. They are located in the day case and main theatres, outpatients and with the breast care nurses.

He also has a page on BT's My Donate website, with all donated money going to the cause.

The endowment funds are used to buy equipment for breast cancer outpatient departments and operating theatres at Princess of Wales and Neath Port Talbot hospitals.

Richard added: "Everything the money is spent on is for the benefit of breast cancer patients."

Richard's BT My Donate page can be found at: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/richardjohnson3>

Bridgend consultant breast surgeon, Richard Johnson.



## ARRESTS FOLLOW DRUGS RAID

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A MAN has been arrested after police executed a drugs warrant at a home in Maesteg, and found cash, along with a quantity of class A, B and C drugs.

He was arrested for possession with intent to supply and was bailed until September 18.

In a connected search at a different Maesteg address, officers found property that had previously been stolen in a burglary in North Cornelly, where a laptop and military

medals were stolen.

The property has been returned to the owner. A man and a woman have been arrested on suspicion of burglary offences and are currently on police bail.

South Wales Police are urging anyone with information in relation to drug use and supply, or about burglaries in Maesteg to get in touch on 101. Alternatively, Crimestoppers can be contacted FREE and anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via their website [www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information)

## THE COURAGE OF BETH



Beth Margetson from Porthcawl is currently in Germany, undergoing experimental treatments in an attempt to fight cancer, including raising her body temperature to controlled, dangerous levels (above). Caroline Saril tells her story on pages 23 and 24.

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# Readers' Letters

**Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Don John, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email [gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk)**

**IMPORTANT:** We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and e-mails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

## Barrage lock-out could have put lives at risk

**WE sailed our small boat from Minehead to Cardiff on Thursday, leaving at 3am to catch the last of the incoming tide.**

On arrival, a few hours later off Penarth pier, we called barrage control to request access through the lock to Cardiff Bay and were told by the staff at this normally excellent service that they were on strike.

They said the lock would only be operated in an emergency and suggested we went to Barry or tie up in the outer harbour for 15 hours until midnight.

One of our crew was returning to London, and going ashore near low water in an area not designed for such a landing looked impractical, so we decided to sail to Barry.

By the time we reached Sully island, the wind had increased to westerly force six (a yachtsman's gale!) so it became a bumpy journey.

Fortunately, we found a mooring in Barry harbour and the Barry Yacht Club members who greeted us were, without exception, friendly and helpful.

But the barrage closure and denial of access to Cardiff from the sea could potentially cause

decisions to be made which would put lives at risk.

This is also a further reminder that the great feature which lies virtually unused at the heart of Barry – the number one dock – could become a vibrant addition to the town and a true alternative to Cardiff.

Simon Toner,

## 'My top class care at Princess of Wales'

**THE Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend has had some negative publicity lately, and I want to tell you of my recent very positive experience.**

I have had a minor eye problem which entailed a day admission for a small oculo-plastic operation under local anaesthetic. My stay was carried out with the utmost

efficiency and the staff, from the consultant surgeon right through to every nurse and orderly and the administrative staff, were extremely considerate and caring. In the past, I have had some private medical treatment, but this was as good, or better than that.

My thanks to the eye unit for their excellent service.

Heather March, Llantwit Major.

## Heronbridge prize draw winners

**DUE to unforeseen circumstances, the date of the Heronbridge summer fête was changed to July 12.**

However, in order to fulfil legal requirements, the grand prize draw was held on July 5 (the date printed on the tickets).

The winners were as follows: 1, Star Prize £100, Lee Page, ticket 10678; 2, £25, Michelle Stansfield, ticket 10920; 3, Shears and secateurs, Joyce Hier, ticket 8193; 4, Loppers and pruners, Natalie Moore, ticket 0417; 5, Garden saws

and secateurs, Tom Ap John-Williams, ticket 8219; 6, Body Toiletries, Hannah Coombs, ticket 9796; 7, Bottle of Chianti, Darren Thomas, ticket 0797; 8, Adidas Sports Bag, Mark Tierney, ticket 3246; 9, Bridge FM Goodies, Narda Hurley, ticket 10835; 10, Winter Warmers, Dilys Evans, ticket 8413; 11, Italian Pashmina, Mrs Waygood, ticket 7441; 12, Mars chocolates, Thelma Williams, ticket 5021.

Marjorie Nash (Chair of The Friends of Heronbridge)

## LOCAL CRIME ROUND-UP...LOCAL CRIME

### Bike theft: police appeal



LEFT: The £1,200 stolen bike.

**POLICE are appealing for information after thieves broke into a shed in Aldenham Road, Porthcawl, and stole a valuable mountain bike.**

The distinctive full suspension 'Mongoose' mountain bike with orange wheels, is worth around £1,200. Police would like to hear from anyone who may have information about the theft which occurred between Friday, July 4 and July 5.

Contact South Wales Police on 101, quoting reference number 1400240023; Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111; or via website [www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information).

## Porthcawl police target shed thefts

**THE NEIGHBOURHOOD Police Team in Porthcawl aims to help residents secure their property by giving out free shed alarms.**

Porthcawl police will be visiting communities to give advice on how to improve shed security, following recent bike thefts.

PCSO Carl Wesgate said that by properly securing property residents can prevent themselves from becoming targets.

He said: "It is about preventing crime and making it as hard as possible for criminals. The alarms give added piece of mind to residents, as well as acting as a deterrent for burglars. People need to make it hard for

## Drinkers banned by Pubwatch

**FIVE people have been banned, two for life, from a number of pubs and bars in Pyle, Cornelly, Maudlam, Kenfig, and Cefn Cribwr in a decision by Pubwatch members.**

Michael Turton, chairperson of Pubwatch, said: "Pubwatch is keen to support South Wales Police in reducing alcohol and drug-related crime. Pubwatch members won't tolerate antisocial behaviour in their premises and the Pubwatch scheme keeps such people out, making it safer and more enjoyable for everyone else."

Inspector Steve Jennings, who is responsible for the police licensing team in the Bridgend area, said: "Pubwatch schemes can be very effective in taking a stand against crime and anti-social behaviour, which in turn helps create a safe and pleasant environment for people to enjoy a night out."

"It's not uncommon to see people more concerned about whether they can get into the pub with their friends than they are about being arrested."

"From a police perspective, our primary role is the prevention, reduction and detection of crime and disorder."

"This decision shows that the members of Pubwatch take their responsibilities to the wider community seriously, and by working together we can have a greater impact on keeping town premises safe."

## Vale MP in promotion

**THE Vale MP, Alun Cairns, has been appointed parliamentary under Secretary of State for Wales and a Government Whip by the Prime Minister, David Cameron.**

It makes him the first MP from the Vale to play a part in the UK Government since at least before Sir Raymond Gower in 1951 and Dorothy Rees DBE in 1950.

The Vale MP said it was a privilege to have the opportunity to play a bigger role in government decision making.

"I am absolutely delighted to have been appointed to the Wales Office and to have been made a Government Whip."

"These roles give me an opportunity to ensure Wales is at the heart of government decision making."

"My focus in Barry and across the rest of the Vale will remain and I plan to double my activity to do all I can to continue to serve local residents."

## New 'Kenfig Journals' launched in sea festival

**WRITER Kristian Evans is to launch new instalments of his 'Kenfig Journal' at a Porthcawl event.**

The new Journal, which appears regularly on the Sustainable Wales website, [www.sustainablewales.org.uk](http://www.sustainablewales.org.uk), will go live after 8pm on Friday, July 25, when Kristian takes part in the Porthcawl Sea Festival at The Green Room, 5, James Street, Porthcawl CF36 3BG.

This will be followed by an 'open mic' in which other writers read their work.

For Sustainable Wales, Literature Wales.

Robert Minihinnick said: "The Kenfig Journal is a fascinating record of modern life by a resident of Kenfig."

"The writing is of the highest order, as will be attested to by anyone who reads earlier Journal instalments. We are looking forward to Kristian's reading from the latest entries."

"Other writers are invited to join in the open mic, remembering the event is part of Porthcawl's sea festival."

Entry is £3. For more information, contact Sustainable Wales on 01656 783962. This event is supported by

## Porthcawl U3A speaker paints a picture of Victorian life...

**THE Hi Tide is known everywhere as a mecca for entertainment – but few outside U3A know it became Porthcawl's answer to London's Tate Gallery, when convener and monthly speaker Graham Cross gave a skilful and interesting presentation on Victorian art, with wife Jenny controlling the PowerPoint slides.**

Entitled 'The Victorians: Britain through the paintings of the age,' his colourful talk described the Victorian era (1837-1901) through various famous artists of the day.

We know they changed the world with great inventions, and many of us had grandparents who were Victorians, but few asked what life was like

when live-in servants were paid just £10 a year and five-year-old boys swept the insides of chimneys.

Graham, a 70s art student, recounted the many stories behind the works of art and their painters, such as Queen Victoria's favourite, William Powell Frith, who had 12 children by his wife, Isabelle, and seven by his former ward and mistress, Mary Alford.

Some of the 40 paintings shown were Battle of Balaclava 1876, Trepidarium 1881, Prince of Wales at Cragside 1884, Chimney Sweep 1866, The Opening of the Great Exhibition 1852, The World of Wealth and Power 1861 and The Lady of Shalott 1888.

If you would like more information on the variety of interest groups run by Porthcawl U3A, or wish to receive a monthly newsletter, call 01656 783663.

Gary Victor, Porthcawl U3A

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**WELSH Lib-Dem AM for South Wales West, Peter Black, will be holding advice surgeries this Friday, July 18, in Pencoed Library from 2pm-3pm; and Porthcawl Library from 3.30pm-4.30pm. No appointment is necessary.**

### Summer fayre

**THE St Bridget's Church is holding its summer fayre in the vicarage gardens and church hall, Southerndown Road, St Brides Major, on Saturday (July 19) from 2pm-4.30pm.**

Stalls, games, tombola, raffles and cream teas. All welcome.

### Tax help for elderly

**TAXHELP for older people will hold an advice surgery at Pencoed Library on August 6.**

Free surgeries are also held at CAB office, Bridgend. For full details and to book an appointment, telephone 0845 6013321, or the helpline on 01308 488066.

**Do you have something to celebrate?**

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## HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JULY 24)

**The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.**

**For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.**

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
17 Thur	10.53	9.7	23.13	9.7
18 Fri	11.37	9.2	23.58	9.1
19 Sat			12.29	8.7
20 Sun	00.57	8.6	13.28	8.2
21 Mon	02.04	8.0	14.42	7.8
22 Tues	03.18	7.9	15.58	7.9
23 Wed	04.29	8.2	16.57	8.4
24 Thur	05.33	8.4	17.57	8.6

**While THE GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.**



# Why Kirsty (24) is campaigning for cancer charity

**A YOUNG woman from Bridgend, who received vital support from The Youth Cancer Trust, is campaigning for the charity to win Best Health project in this year's National Lottery Awards.**

The Youth Cancer Trust's project, Wellbeing Activity Breaks for Young People with Cancer, has made it through to the public vote that decides the winners of this year's National Lottery Awards

– the annual search for the UK's favourite Lottery-funded projects.

The project is competing against six other organisations to win the Best Health category, scoop a £2,000 prize and have its work celebrated on the star-studded National Lottery Awards show on BBC One in September.

Wellbeing Activity Breaks for Young People with Cancer brighten the lives of hundreds of young cancer patients every year. People aged between 14 and 30 go on free activity breaks at the Youth Cancer Trust's

dedicated hotel in Bournemouth to give them a revitalising break.

One of the young people to benefit is Kirsty Loveland, aged 24. Seven years ago, she developed non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and needed eight months of intensive chemotherapy to beat the disease.

She visited the Youth Cancer Trust's centre in Bournemouth to make friends with young people going through similar experiences, and says the charity made a huge difference to her life: "There are no words to describe how much support and help the Youth Cancer Trust have given me – without it I

think I would have given up on living a normal life. The charity gives amazing support, love and dedication to hundreds of young adults affected by cancer, without them I wouldn't be the person I am today.

"It is a fantastic charity and I hope everyone will vote for them to win this National Lottery Award."

Georgina Hillman, from the Youth Cancer Trust, said winning the award and being celebrated on national television would be a dream come true: "We are thrilled to have made it through to the finals of this year's National Lottery Awards. We

brighten the lives of young people like Kirsty by providing fun and friendship as they go through a difficult period in their lives.

"We'd love all our supporters to vote for us to be named Best Health project. It would be a fantastic reward for everyone involved with the Youth Cancer Trust to win this prestigious award."

TV star and actor John Barrowman will be presenting the National Lottery Awards for the fourth time this year: "Every year I am moved by the exceptional work that the finalists of the National Lottery Awards carry out. They typify everything that is right with society – the

volunteering, community spirit and selflessness," he said.

"I urge everyone to get behind The Youth Cancer Trust as they aim to get the recognition they so richly deserve. National Lottery players should be proud that the £33 million they raise for charities every single week goes to projects like this."

To vote for Wellbeing Activity Breaks for Young People with Cancer, go to [www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/awards](http://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/awards) or telephone 0844 836 9704 and follow the campaign on Twitter: hashtag #NLAWards. Voting runs until midnight on Wednesday, July 23.



Kirsty Loveland (centre)

## The 'pocket dynamo' is in charge!



The new president, Gloria Ward.

**LAST Sunday, members of Porthcawl Lions Club and their partners enjoyed their annual handover lunch at the Hi-Tide, when Gloria Ward took over from Laurence Pearce as president of the club.**

Lion Laurence gave a short speech praising the work of members during the last year and presented Lion Gloria with the charter, chain of office (and jacket, which only has to be worn at this annual event!)

Lion Gloria thanked

Laurence for all he had done during his year in office and took the opportunity to present him with his 25-year service pin and certificate.

Members then went away to contemplate what is bound to be a busy, but fun-filled year with such a popular and enthusiastic 'pocket dynamo' in charge.

All club members wish her well for her presidential year.

If you would like to know more, or to become involved in Porthcawl Lions, telephone Don on 01656 788583. JC

## Don't fall for website scams!

**BRIDGEND Trading Standards officers are warning local residents to be "extra-vigilant" when paying for goods or services online.**

It follows several recent complaints from residents where fraudsters have set up 'copycat sites' that imitate official government online services, a BCBC spokeswoman said this week.

Ordering new passports, booking driving tests and renewing car tax discs were just some of the ways that people are unwittingly being left out-of-pocket.

To report a misleading or suspected copycat website, contact the Citizen's Advice Consumer Helpline on 03454 040506.



Kirsty Loveland (third from right)

## Shame of child labour

**ON July 21, Porthcawl-based Sustainable Wales, host a presentation on 'Child Labour and Fairtrade in Pakistan', by Muhammad Younas.**

Pakistan makes 70 per cent of the hand-stitched footballs exported worldwide, including balls used during the World Cup in Brazil.

Mohammed Younas said: "These balls are

often stitched by young children, many between the ages of 5-14. They earn less than 10pence per day. The balls cost over £100 in the shops, with £20-30 for a replica). This would be unimaginable in many parts of the world."

The presentation is part of renewing Porthcawl town and Bridgend borough's Fairtrade status. All are welcome and entry is free.

Contact Luke on 01656 783962 or

[info@sustainablewales.org.uk](mailto:info@sustainablewales.org.uk) for further information.

## The truth about Calamity Jane!

### SKER WI NEWS

**AT the July meeting of Sker WI, the president, Nora Williams, welcomed members and it was reported that the mystery trip was spent in Gloucester, where members enjoyed retail therapy, followed by a cruise on the river.**

The new banner was dedicated at St David's Church, Nottage, followed in the Church Hall by cheese and wine, also some curling!

Members are also busy getting ready for the forthcoming county Show.

The speaker for the evening was Mrs Polly Davies whose title was 'Calamity Jane/not like Debbie Reynolds'. Calamity Jane's real name was Martha Jane Cannary and she was born on May 1, 1852 in Missouri. She was the eldest of six children and learnt to ride at an early age. After her parents died, Calamity Jane kept the family together by taking on a variety of different jobs.

Over the years, they moved from place to place and Calamity Jane dressed like a man and worked as a Scout.

She was remembered for her association with 'Wild Bill' Hickok. Jane died on August 1, 1903 aged 51 in Deadwood, South Dakota.

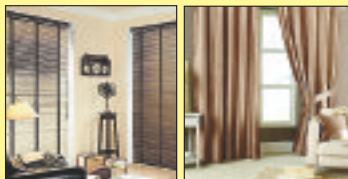
The next meeting will be on September 11 at 7pm in St David's Church Hall, Nottage, when Ms Jane Masters will give a talk on 'Don't put your daughter on the stage'.

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## It's carnival time, me hearties!

**THE theme of Porthcawl Buccaneers Carnival on Saturday, July 19 is 'The life and times of Porthcawl since 1914', and sees the largest entry of floats and walkers for many years.**

The procession will commence at 1.30pm from Sandy Bay, Porthcawl, winding through Porthcawl town centre to the carnival field at Porthcawl Rugby Club.

En route, entertainers will amuse the crowd with dance troupes and marching bands, supported by police, RNLI,

Coastguard and Fire Service.

On the carnival field will be a travelling fair, Bridge FM, stalls and sideshows and children's shows.

There is no entry fee for events on the fields but donations to

charities and good cause in the Porthcawl areas.

Visit the Porthcawl Buccaneers Facebook page, or phone Kerry Marlow on 01656 771457 for more information.

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## 2020 vision creates new ministry in Bridgend

**LEFT:**  
Rev Pauline Smith, Rector Mike Komor and Rev Jayne Shaw.

**A SECOND ministry area has been created in Bridgend as work forges ahead with 2020 Vision – the strategy for growth called for by the Church in Wales.**

The benefice of Coity, Brackla and Nolton has been expanded to include the parish of Coychurch with the Rector Mike Komor being licensed as Rector and Revs Jayne Shaw and Pauline Smith as the assistant curates.

The strategy follows a wide-scale review of the Church in Wales which was commissioned to see how the church could best serve Wales by the time it celebrates its centenary in 2020. At its heart is the creation of 'Ministry Areas' led by teams of clergy and lay people.

Mike, Jayne and Pauline were all licensed by the Assistant Bishop of Llandaff, David Wilbourne, at St Crallo's Church, Coychurch.

Bishop David said: "The licensing at Coychurch was more than a bit like a marriage between a vibrant, outward-looking church and a vibrant team of clergy, who will simply be extending their pastoral care in the Bridgend area."

"Coychurch is very much part of Bridgend and so it makes sense to be linked with its neighbouring parish in this way."

There are understood to be historical links between the medieval churches at Coychurch and Coity – so the ministry area grouping means history has come full circle.

Mike Komor was formerly

vicar in the Rectorial benefice of Llantwit Major and vicar of Ewenny with St Brides Major before being appointed Rector of Coity, Nolton and Brackla in 2005. He was Area Dean for Bridgend from 2004 to 2010.

Jayne Shaw has been the Assistant Curate in Coity, Nolton and Brackla since October 2012.

Pauline Smith was ordained in June at Llandaff Cathedral and takes up her first curacy in Bridgend.

Another Bridgend parish – Laleston and Merthyr Mawr was extended to include Pen-y-Fai – creating a new larger ministry area at the end of last year. The addition of Coychurch to Coity, Nolton and Brackla means it is the second ministry area to be created in the Bridgend area within the last year.

## Shelley's Salon in line for top Welsh award!

**SHELLEY'S SALON in Aberkenfig has been shortlisted for 'Salon of the Year' in the first annual Welsh Hair and Beauty Awards which took place recently at Cardiff City Stadium.**

Awards up for grabs, range from the Best of Cardiff to the much sought after Beauty Salon of the Year.

Shelley Pengilly herself is also shortlisted in the category of 'Women's Stylist of the Year'.

She commented: "For a small salon in a quiet village, it feels incredible to be competing in categories with entries from Welsh cities. The salon is a hidden little gem in the village of Aberkenfig with clients who travel from as far as London. 'Shelley's Salon' has been my dream since I was a little girl-playing hairdresser with family members in our home. Now, that the family home has evolved into a wildly successful business that I can't wait to arrive at every morning."

"I am dedicated to my profession and aspire to stay current within the industry's latest trends and innovations. I am passionate about training and encouraging my staff to build on their skills. It is my pleasure to go the extra mile for my clients to know that they feel and look gorgeous."

"I have the best job in the world!"

## 'Mind your car keys' seaside surfers warned



Surf lesson, Porthcawl.

**PORHCRAWL surfers are being warned by police to safeguard car keys against thieves.**

PCSO Janine Dulton said: "As surfers stow their keys away in hidden spots on or around the car, potential thieves will watch. Once the driver

walks away, thieves will retrieve the key and steal valuables from the car or the indeed steal the car itself."

Beachgoers are also warned to be careful as they often leave their keys on the sand unattended while they swim.

## £250 'thank you' cheque for the Kenfig Hill Air Cadets



Cadets from Kenfig Hill in front of the Police helicopter.

**COUN Gina Hooper, chairperson of Pyle Community Council, and Coun Mrs Kay John presented Sqn Ldr Barry C Thomas, Officer Commanding 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron RAF Air Cadets with a cheque for £250 for the Squadron, in recognition of the help and support given by staff and cadets at the recent fun day.**

Sqn Ldr Thomas thanked them for their generous contribution for the squadron and said it would be passed on to the Civilian Committee to be added to the squadron funds to be used as and when necessary to support the squadron.

**STAFF and cadets from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron RAF Air Cadets visited the Police Air Support Unit at**



Sqn Ldr Barry C Thomas, Mrs Gina Hooper, Mrs Kay John.

**RAF St Athan on July 1.**

They were given a guided tour of the Eurocopter EC135 police helicopter by PC Kathryn Fisher who is attached to the unit while training.

The cadets were allowed to sit in the rear observer seat and experience the view from the on-board

cameras, while asking questions of PC Kathryn Fisher.

The evening was due to be concluded with a presentation from PS Mark Chamberlain, but the crew were called out to an incident, much to the cadets' delight they were given permission to film the helicopter taking off.

Just before they left,

the cadets had time to present PS Mark Chamberlain with a squadron plaque.

Kenfig Hill Air cadets would like to thank the Police Air Support Unit for their assistance in arranging this experience for the cadets.

**LINDSAY THOMAS, Secretary, 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Sqn Civilian Committee**

## Places to go, people to see!

**THE Porthcawl townswomen's Guild chairman welcomed everyone to the July meeting and gave an update on the health of sick members.**

A donation in memory of Crug Lloyd Evans has been sent to Cancer Research; Beryl Jones, our delegate to the National AGM in Cardiff, gave a full report of the proceedings. Many members had attended.

We had a lovely day for an outing to Slade Garden near Southend-on-Sea, followed by lunch at St Bride's Major.

A report was given of the visit by seven members to Chester for a long weekend, meeting up with our friends from our twin Guild, Mansfield.

Information was given about the carnival float organised by Ceri Joseph from the museum, on which 10

of us will be available (ring Dee on 784243).

Our speaker was an old favourite, Mr Clive Williams, telling us of the life of composer Rossini, illustrated on the 24 - seats still piano, and with his usual amusing stories.

**Dorothy Thomas**

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# New president takes over at Rotary Club



THE Bridgend Rotary Club president's handover dinner took place at the Heronston Hotel on July 7, when outgoing president Allan Brooks said: "When I accepted the position of president, I made a speech setting out my aims for my year in office."

"I have felt honoured to be president. It has enabled me to not only widen my own Rotary knowledge and experience, but to also meet with other members of clubs and to share ideas, foster relationships and cooperation."

He thanked president-elect Sue Cassidy for her support through the year and wished her every joy and success in her coming year in office.



Sue Cassidy responded: "Rotary was something that I was brought up with. My late father was a member and former President of the Rotary Club of Port Talbot."

"One of the things I intend to do this year is to invite charities to come and speak at our luncheon meetings. The International theme for Rotary this year is 'Light Up' Rotary and by this we understand what it means for Rotary in the Community. A sense of joy and hope."

**Presentations**  
ROTARY Plate was presented to president-elect Alan Reeks by the new president, Sue Cassidy.

Harvey Palmer Award was presented to Mr Richard Howe from Heronsbridge school, and Rotarian of The Year Award was presented to Rotarian Edgar Burt.

WM



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## Rotary award for Jennifer

PRESIDENT of the Rotary Club of Cowbridge, Michael Macphail, recently presented a Primary Schools Young Citizen Award to Jennifer Hammond, of Llangan Primary School.

The award, which is a Rotary International initiative, is made to pupils who have made a significant contribution to the well-being of their school and fellow pupils.



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**Tyn-y-Coed surgery**

ON Saturday, July 19, the public are invited to look around the new extension to the existing surgery from 10.30am onwards, with an opening ceremony taking place at 12noon in Sarn.

Friends of Tyn-y-Coed surgery recently raised over £1,000 to purchase new ECG equipment.

**Charity concert**  
St Brides Minor Community Council and the Bryncethin Memorial Hall committee are organising an evening of music, readings and poetry.

It takes place on Friday, August 1 at 7pm in Bryncethin Memorial Hall (located on the A4061 opposite Bryncethin primary school).

A varied programme includes Côr Meibion Cwm Garw, with its musical director Bryan Young and accompanist Margaret Rich, Garw Valley Ladies Choir and musical director Alec Brookes.

There are two soprano soloists, Enid-Sian and Rhian Hughes: Rhian was the star of Maesteg Amateur Operatic Society's annual concert of Jekyll and Hyde. She also starred in Maesteg Children's Choir recent annual concert as a

soloist.

There are a number of instrumentalists, including Harvey Rees (trumpet and cornet), Peter Richards (piano), Russell White (bagpipes), Stephen Pare (guitar). The compère for the evening is Felicity Watkins.

Tickets cost £2 and can be obtained at Sarn centre. Contact Yvonne/Elaine/Felicity on 01656 721452/721444/720808. All proceeds will be donated to a services charity.

**Congratulations**  
LOCAL musicians are putting Bridgend CBC on the international musical scene.

At Llangollen International Eisteddfod, Rhidian Jenkins, a pupil at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg, Llangynwyd, took first place in the under-18s solo competition and Bridgend male choir won the male voice choirs' competition.

In the recent heats of the Treorchy eisteddfod, Benjamin Lock took first place in years 4-5 modern jazz class piano, and years 2-4 graded classical piece on the violin.

Keira Hill had first place in years 3-5 Disney song class; both contestants are pupils in Tondy primary school.

In the adult section, Rhian Hughes from Maesteg took first place in songs from the

movies/stage/film, first place in the Disney song class, and first place in the secular/sacred class.

**Church concert**

THERE is a charity concert at St Theodore's church, Kenfig Hill this evening, July 17 at 7pm, with all proceeds going to the Alzheimer's Society.

The 'The Summer Serenade' will feature the Porthcawl-based choir, 'Sounds Familiar', with music provided by the RAF St Athan Voluntary band and soprano Rhianon Skilton. Tickets £7, on sale at the door.

**'60s sounds**

THERE is a Maesteg Hospital League of Friends charity concert in the Royal British Legion Club, Commercial Street, Maesteg on Saturday, July 26 7.30pm.

All proceeds will go to the Maesteg Hospital and the concert will feature 'Pulse' with Alana Shepherd (Welsh X Factor winner) and a fabulous five-piece band playing music from the sixties to the present. Tickets are only £3 obtainable at the door.

**Take Note**  
TAKE NOTE are a young contemporary choir based in Maesteg, which formed in November 2010 and have since been

**NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS**

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399  
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk



fortunate to perform at some very prestigious events, ranging from good cause fundraisers, to mayoral galas and social nights.

In June 2012, they put on their spectacular concert 'Love, Life, Rock' in Maesteg Town Hall. Now, two years on, they are back at Maesteg Town Hall with their biggest concert yet.

'ELEMENTAL' will be performed on Saturday, July 26 for one night only. Tickets from www.takenotevocal.com or call 07957 091249.

**Summer treat**  
I RECENTLY attended Brackla Community Chorus annual summer concert in Brackla Community Centre.

Concerts staged by this choir always involve musicians from a local school and make a donation to help finance music at the school.

The choir, under its musical director Gillian Ridout, assisted by accompanist Gareth Waite, started the

concert with 'Another Opening. Another Show' from the Broadway hit show *Kiss me Kate*, the Henry Mancini hit 'Moonriver', D Protheroe's 'Y Mae Afon' and Carly Simon's hit 'Let the river run'.

Then on stage we had the stars of the evening, the choir of the Archdeacon John Lewis primary school, assisted by teachers Emma Drain and Verity Conlon.

These youngsters performed with vigour as they sang 'Mickey Mouse March', 'Somewhere out there' and 'Under the sea'.

To mark the centenary of the start of WW1, the audience were encouraged to join in a popular song of the time 'The White Cliffs of Dover'.

The Brackla choir sang two rousing songs 'The Beauty of the Earth' by J Rutter and Rogers and Hammerstein's 'There is nothing like a dame'.

The outstanding

Heledd Gwynant (Xylophone), played two pieces of music, 'Yellow after the Rain' and 'xylophone concerto'.

The school choir returned to the stage after the interval and sang 'A whole new world', 'Bare necessities' and 'Part of your world'.

Then the audience joined in singing another war time song 'Run Rabbit Run'.

Brackla chorus, in recognition of the fact it was the Fourth of July (American Independence Day) sang 'Dream a little dream of me' and the 'American Trilogy'.

Both choirs appeared on stage twice more and the concert finished with the audience joining in to sing the Welsh National Anthem, 'Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau'.

**Platinum award**  
FROM rubbish to excellent, Y Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen reaches the top of the pile in the Eco-Schools Awards.

After receiving its third green flag back in February, CCYD has been become the first secondary school in Bridgend to achieve the prestigious Platinum Award.

The Eco-Schools programme run by 'Keep Wales Tidy' and funded by the Welsh Government, not only delivers environmental education, but also provides learners with real life experiences.

The programme run by the pupils, with an adult coordinator (Elaine Pope) highlights the importance of the wider community.

School Eco members are Oliver Bailes,



BELOW: Y Dderwen eco committee were awarded the prestigious platinum award by Matthew Bunt of 'Keep Wales Tidy'.



Thomas Davies, Sophie Durston, Liam Evans, Bronwyn Hughes, Charlie James, Ryan Mullis, Owen Rees, Bethan Ridgeway, Jayson Walsh.

**Hand-over**  
AT its recent AGM, Côr Meibion Maesteg a'r Cylch (Maesteg and District male choir) agreed a change of officials, with John Jenkins taking on the role of chair/secretary, and its long standing secretary Gerwyn Thomas stepping down to become treasurer.

Contact John on 01656 731929/07429 637068 e-mail melin7777@icloud.com; Gerwyn on 01656 735305/07866 091848 e-mail cormaesteg@talktalk.net

New members are welcome at the Celtic Club, Garth, any Thursday between 7pm and 9pm.

## Generations meet at Brynteg School



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### URGENT DEADLINE for Elderly in Wales

If you or someone you know has been paying care home fees then it's possible those fees should have been paid for by the NHS. Even if the fees were paid up to 11 years ago they can still be reclaimed.

Fees can be reclaimed even if the person who received the care has since passed away.

If the primary reason for the person receiving care was a health issue then the NHS should have paid the care home fees.

The care home fees wrongly paid are often very substantial.

**The Welsh Assembly** have stated that the deadline to reclaim care home fees that should not have been paid is **31st JULY 2014.**

If this might be your situation or someone you know then you must act quickly. Contact Quality Solicitors Devonalds today for a **FREE** assessment of the potential claim. We work on a **NO WIN, NO FEE** basis so there is no risk, and possibly a massive gain.

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**A TEA party for older residents living in the Bridgend area was hosted recently by a group of pupils from Brynteg Comprehensive School last week.**

The event was designed to bring people belonging to the Bridgend branch of Contact the Elderly closer together with the local community.

Eight year-12 pupils undertook all tasks from the food shopping to table layout to preparing sandwiches, ready to welcome the older guests at 3pm. On their arrival the pupils got to work serving teas and coffee and sandwiches, while chatting with the older people.

PC Sam Thompson from South Wales Police who organised the event said: "It is great to know that a charity such as

Contact the Elderly exists, especially as it is the only national charity solely dedicated to tackling loneliness and isolation in older people".

PCSO Peter Simpson added: "The pupils worked extremely hard to prepare the tea party. It gave the pupils the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the

needs and concerns of older people gave the members of the Bridgend Neighbourhood Police Team a chance to also engage with young people".

The pupils from Brynteg will be preparing a Christmas tea party for Contact the Elderly as part of their Welsh Baccalaureate. South Wales Police,

on behalf of Contact the Elderly, is keen to find volunteers, or organisations, across the Bridgend area who would be willing to host an annual tea party.

Anyone who is interested is asked to get in touch with PC Sam Thompson or PCSO Pete Simpson by calling South Wales Police on 101.



## Site manager's fourth award



BELOW: Nathan Ham.

**A TAYLOR WIMPEY site manager from Coity, Bridgend, has won his fourth successive national house-building award.**

Nathan Ham, acting production manager at the Pentref Newydd development, has been awarded the NHBC (National House-Building Council) Pride in the Job Quality Award.

Last year he was named the regional winner for Wales in the NHBC Pride in the Job

Awards, while he scooped NHBC Seal of Excellence Awards in 2011 and 2012 for his work at the development.

Nathan said: "I'm delighted to have won a Quality Award, especially for the fourth year running - it's a great honour not just for me but the whole team at Pentref Newydd. They all work incredibly hard and take great pride in ensuring that the homes we build are completed to the highest possible standards."



# Brynteg students are pipped at the post in national competition



LEFT: From left to right – Brynteg's Harry Davies, Tom McArdle, Lewis Brennan, and Alex Fox, who represented Bridgend county borough in the grand final of the Young Consumers of the Year competition.

A TEAM of pupils from Brynteg Comprehensive recently competed in the grand final of this year's 'Young Consumers of the Year' competition.

Held in Harrogate, as part of the annual Trading Standards Conference, the Brynteg team, year-12 students Alex Fox, Lewis Brennan, Tom McArdle and Harry Davies, took on seven schools from around Britain before ultimately missing out to the winning Wakefield team by a mere 10 points.

The annual competition invites teams of students aged 14-17 to compete in a knockout quiz which tests them on a range of subjects, including consumer rights, money and finance and social

responsibility issues.

Supporting the team in Harrogate was Brynteg's deputy headmaster Robert Hopkins. He said: "The boys deserve a great deal of praise for the hard work they put in to this competition."

"The margin of victory was extremely narrow, but they were committed from the outset and should be proud of their achievement."

"I have been involved in this competition for a number of years, and this is certainly the closest we've ever come to claiming the top prize."

Brynteg's journey began after winning a local competition involving five other schools from Bridgend county borough in November 2013. This led the team to the Welsh regional finals in

Cardiff in March, where they finished runners up.

Bridgend County Borough Council Deputy Leader, Coun David Sage, said: "I'm extremely proud of the fact that this is the third consecutive year that a team from a local school has represented Wales at this competition."

"They put up a great fight and were a credit to their school and county borough."

"Consumer rights can often be difficult to interpret, so there are huge advantages to being well-informed in this field."

"Our students now know what they are entitled to if things go wrong with goods and services when buying online, which will make them more savvy in the long term."

## INSPIRING LESSONS IN BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT FOR MUMS



MEMBERS of Llantwit Major Comprehensive School's child development class have said a "massive thank you" to Bridgend's Parents in Partnership – south Wales' breastfeeding support group – for welcoming them with open arms to their group meeting.

The class were inspired by the mums' honest and endearing stories about their breastfeeding journey. Students

had the opportunity to ask in depth questions and the experience proved to be invaluable as so much knowledge was passed onto the students.

Melissa Bevan, one of their teachers, set up the meeting as she believes the key to successful breastfeeding like everything else is education.

Mrs Bevan said: "Breastfeeding is not on the agenda in schools and, sadly, only small groups of students are being taught about its benefits. Llantwit Major

school students left the group feeling really positive about their experience and lots of them said that having been to the group they would be more likely to try feeding their own baby and felt more confident discussing the benefits of breastfeeding with their peers."

"Seeing other mums breastfeeding their babies and toddlers also reinforced that this is a very natural way to feed your baby."

SB

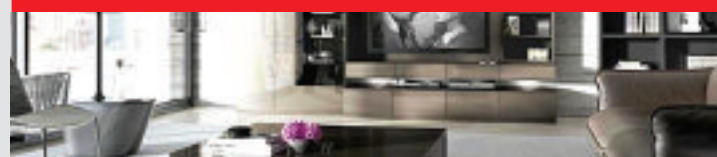
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Katie will be at Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB on the date listed below.

**Friday 18 July 10am - 4.30pm**

No appointment is necessary. If you are unable to attend call us for a free telephone consultation. Contact:

Katie McCraith

T: 01656 838543

E: katie.mccraith@hughjames.com

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# The 'Thankful Village' Colwinston celebrates



THE children of St David's Primary School, Colwinston, took part in the village fete on Saturday, July 5.

The school float, in

which all the artwork was produced by the children, won first prize. The float celebrated Colwinston being one of the few 'Thankful Villages' in the UK.

"Twenty three soldiers left the village to fight in World War One, and 23 returned safely. Well done to the staff, children and PTA for a wonderful float," a spokesperson said.

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## Who wants to build what and where?

Greggs PLC – former land at Foel Trawsnant, Clarks shop, 15 Adare Street, Bridgend – two non-illuminated fascia signs and one non-illuminated projecting sign.

Mr Robert Hill – Arosfa, 2 Heol West Plas, Litchard, Bridgend – single storey rear and side extension.

Wales & West – Executors of Mr DJ Coedparc, 42 Park Street, Bridgend – programme of works to various trees.

Mr Christopher Stone – 1 Curwen Terrace, North Cornelly – single storey rear extension and new vehicular access to rear lane to include car port.

Mr Lloyd David – 11 Litchard Park, Litchard, Bridgend – demolish existing garage and erect single storey side and rear extension.

Cynffig Comprehensive School – Cynffig Comprehensive School, East avenue, Kenfig Hill – proposed bicycle storage facility to accommodate 40 bicycles within the grounds of the school.

Mr A Williams – 38 Blackmill Road, Bryncethin – ground floor extension.

Mr Andrew Williams – 5 Lon y Coed, Llangewydd Court, Bridgend – two storey rear and first floor side extensions.

BOS Leisure – 12 Marshfield Avenue, Pyle – proposed extension to showroom.

Mr IO Carless – 3 Cae Canol, Porthcawl – single storey extension to rear elevation.

Mr DW Campbell-Ace – 39 Sandpiper Road, Porthcawl – loft conversion and dormer extensions.

Treetops Care Home – Treetops Nursing Home, Llangenor Road, Brynmynyn – extend the time period to commence works on approval P/09/362/FUL (single storey extension) for further five years.

Mr and Mrs Danter – 3 Hillcrest, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend – replace existing rear conservatory with larger conservatory.

Neath Port Talbot CBC – land at Foel Trawsnant, cynonville – erect 80.2m high meteorological mast for temporary period of two years.

Mr Robert Hill – Arosfa, 2 Heol West Plas, Litchard, Bridgend – single storey rear and side extension.

Executors of Mr DJ Coedparc, 42 Park Street, Bridgend – three detached dwellings.

Mrs Sarah Partridge – 4 Swn yr Adar, Pen-y-Fai – fell Lime tree.

Mrs Sian Burnard – 95 Woodstock Gardens, Pencoed – cut back and trim tree to rear.

Mr John Fussell – Bryn Lynfi, 55 Neath Road, Maesteg – programme of works to various trees including felling and replacing.

Rev James Wilkinson – Hermon Chapel, Nolton Street, Bridgend – relocate lower pews, central heating pipes and radiators, paint all interior rooms including toilet block and level floor.

Parks Department – Newbridge Fields off Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend – clu of grassland to all/multi purpose pitches. 50 space car park and improved access.

Master William Reilly – 1 Duffryn, Pencoed – convert garage to bedroom/ensuite, provide galvanised handrails to front door and adjust path levels for access.

Mrs Paula Davies – 5 Elm Rise, Sarn, Bridgend – single storey rear extension.

Mr and Mrs Jones – 52 Bridgend Road, Treetops Care Home – single storey extension to rear to provide shower room.

Mr Perry Raymond – 49 Craiglas, Llangenor – shower room extension, convert living room to bedroom and provide ramped access.

Greggs PLC – former Clarks shop, 15 Adare Street, Bridgend – two existing rear air conditioning condensers and one new extract grille on rear elevation.

Principality Pension Trust – Unit 1, junction Main Avenue and Heol West Plas, Litchard Industrial Estate, Bridgend – proposed alterations to existing elevations plus additional parking provision.

Mr Leslie Parslow – Greenfield Bungalow, Woodland Avenue, Porthcawl – proposed extension to rear and change of roof profile to incorporate side gables.

Mr Robert Thomas – Celynfya, Cefn Road, Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend – proposed new dwelling (re-submission of P/14/70/FUL).

Mr and Ms Wallis and Jones – rear gardens, 2 and 4 Rockfields Close, Porthcawl – new dwelling.

Mrs Bridgeman – 14 Heol Ewenny, Pencoed – two storey rear extension.

Mr Eric Averill – Cae Helyg Farm, Pant Hirwaun, Bryncethin, Bridgend – detached garage.

CJ Construction (Wales) Limited – re Social Club, 23A Bethania Street, Maesteg – demolish RC Social Club and ancillary buildings and 23A Bethania Street.

Mr Robert Robertson – 134 Highfields, Brackla, Bridgend – proposed porch.

Mrs J Jones – 27A Greenfield Terrace, North Cornelly – detached garage.

Agrivert – land at Parc Stormy, Stormy Down, Bridgend – screening opinion for construction and operation of anaerobic digestion facility.

Valleys to Coast Housing Association – ex Council Depot, Newlands Close, Pyle – demolish existing building and construct single storey dwelling.

JD Wetherspoon – the Wyndham Arms, Dunraven Place, Bridgend – additional illuminated signaghe to side elevation.

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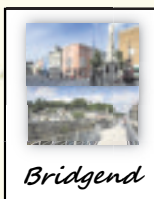
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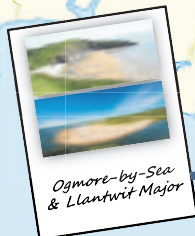
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## Free funding from BAVO

BAVO (Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations) has begun free monthly drop-in funding advice sessions for voluntary and community groups in Bridgend county borough – to find out more about what funding is available.

The next sessions will be from 2pm-4pm on July 23 (at the Let's Help office in Oxford Street, Pontycymer); and August 20 (BAVO offices, Maesteg).

For further details, call the Development Officer at BAVO, on 01656 810400; or [bavo@bavo.org.uk](mailto:bavo@bavo.org.uk)

BELOW: Former participants at the drop-in funding sessions.





# Bridgend Show benefits from three days of settled weather as visitors enjoy their day



## PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE  
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THIS year's Bridgend Show took place over three days (July 11-13) and visitors took advantage of the settled weather to enjoy all the usual attractions.

Equestrian classes were very popular, with a large number of entries in most classes.

Carriage driving proved to be a real crowd pleaser, as the riders raced at speed through tricky courses.

Local voluntary groups used the occasion to raise their profile, and visitors were able to enjoy all the usual sideshow attractions – plus a variety of food outlets scattered around the site at Pencoed College campus.

See page 25 for more photographs of the event by Glyn Evans.

*RIGHT: Carriage driving was a popular attraction at this year's show.*

*LEFT: The Lions Club were there!*

*BELOW:  
The show jumping classes were very popular.*



*The Talygarn equestrian vaulting club demonstrated their skills.*



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# SETTING OUR SIGHTS BEYOND THE PRESENT - TO LEAVE A LEGACY OF HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

**L**AST WEEK, the Welsh Government launched the 'Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill' with a statement by Jeff Cuthbert AM, the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty.

He said that this piece

of legislation puts sustainable development at the heart of our public services and represents our commitment to pass on a better quality of life to our children and grandchildren. As he said: "Nothing could be more important."

In his statement, he says that Wales faces a number of complex and long-term social, economic and

environmental challenges. Many of these are a legacy from the past, but it is increasingly recognised that more needs to be done to ensure that the current generation does not leave them as challenges for future generations.

This accords with the famous saying which is on my noticeboard to remind me that - 'We do not inherit the earth from our fathers, we borrow it from our children'.

The Minister sets out the three key aims of the Bill, which will be subject to widespread consultation and scrutiny - giving a renewed sense of purpose for our public services, a recognition of the international principles of sustainable development and a commitment to making a real difference for people and communities by working together to prevent poverty, and help people into work with the skills that they need to succeed.

I have been heartened to meet employers in the Vale of Glamorgan who are acting now to give young people a chance and opportunity to provide them with these skills, such as the young people I met last week at TJ Morgan (Barry) Ltd at the Vale Business

Park. They are training their young workforce to be plastics engineers and environmental fabrication specialists, taking on new apprentices recruited from local schools in south Wales, supported by Careers Wales and Bridgend College.

It is encouraging to meet the local employers who have taken part in the successful Welsh Government Jobs Growth Wales Programme now reaching the 10,000th job opportunity for 16-25 year olds, backed by the EU European Social Fund.

Last week, I met young people from VIBE Creative who have won awards for the film they have made to encourage young people to stop smoking - and are now continuing in work and gaining further multi-media skills, as a result of the programme.

Over the summer, I will be visiting other businesses who have taken part on this scheme including solicitors and accountancy firms, a Cardiff Airport business and manufacturing businesses in the Vale.

Many of these employers have taken on young people following the six-month Jobs Growth Wales financial

support from the Welsh Government. GO Wales (Graduate Opportunities) has had similar success and is highly rated by employers.

This is how Welsh Government intervention can help secure a 'balanced recovery' and offer opportunities for young people so that they can help build sustainable communities with their skills and employment prospects.

The Financial Times recently featured the Shadow Secretary of State for Work and

Pensions, Rachel Reeves MP, following her visit to Wales with the Shadow Cabinet where she met employers and young people who had benefited from Jobs Growth Wales and said this was a model for the rest of the UK.

Wales has seen the positive results of our interventions with labour market figures which has put Wales at the forefront as a rising economy over the past year.

Most importantly, this investment in our young

people today will help secure the future for their children and grandchildren. As Jeff Cuthbert said in his statement: "The Well-being of Future Generations Bill is about looking at the big picture - what are our long-term goals and aspirations as a nation, what makes our approach distinctive and better? A shared vision for the Wales we want, with a shared commitment to act will make a real difference to people's lives."

## ASSEMBLY NOTES



by Jane Hutt AM  
(Minister for Finance)

## MIND in the Vale praised



ABOVE: Coun Martin Turner, Penarth Town Mayor, with Jane Hutt AM, Rachel Connors, MIND in the Vale staff, and volunteers.

MIND in the Vale recently held a very successful AGM, where many achievements over the past year were celebrated, including a rise in volunteer support. The charity was warmly praised by Vale AM, Jane Hutt, for helping to raise awareness of mental health needs - with one in four people suffering from mental ill-health.



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# THE SUN ARRIVES – JUST IN TIME FOR VILLAGE FAYRE IN PORTHCAWL

Report and photographs by  
**KEITH E MORGAN**

Much to the relief of the Rector, the Rev Canon Philip Masson, and Andrew Singer, the chairman of the organising committee, after a very wet Friday and more rain on the Saturday morning, by mid-day Newton Village Green was bathed in sunshine for the St John's Church, Newton, annual summer fayre.

Following the peal of the church bells, the fayre was formally opened in front of a record crowd at 12 noon by Steve Strange, lead singer of Visage – one of the trail-blazing New Romantic bands of the 1980s.

Everyone made the most of the sideshows, stalls, Pimms, church hall refreshments and tours of St John's Church, as well as enjoying a programme of events which included contributions from the pupils of St Clare's and St John's Schools, the Porthcawl Ukulele Band, the Seren Arab and Desert Divas Middle Eastern Belly Dance Troupe and the Newton Performance House.

After the raffle, which was drawn by Rev Masson, with summer fayre committee member Nicola Willis on hand to give out the prizes, the event was brought to an end by a closely fought tug-of-war contest.

This was between two teams drawn from the Jolly Sailor and Ancient Briton pubs. They were equal after two pulls, but with pouring sweat and tiring muscles, the stalwarts from the Ancient Briton proved to be the stronger team and won the competition.

There was a good turn-out by Porthcawl's Air Training Squadron, whose Cadets sold the fayre programmes. Members of St John Ambulance were also on hand – but, thankfully, did not have to handle any emergencies on the day.

Local PCSOs Jessica and Karl were on duty in their tent police station and like Chief of Police Claude Rains in the film *Casablanca*, they rounded up the 'usual suspects' and finger-printed a record breaking 250 (adults and children) in two hours.

All in all, a great day was had by everyone, with it being a specially rewarding day for St John's Church and all those who had turned out to both support and attend the fayre.



ABOVE: Former Visage front man Steve Strange opens the fete.



Nicola Willis and Rev Philip Masson.



The Desert Divas perform in front of St John's Church.



Looking down from the church tower.



LEFT: The refreshments team!





# BRIDGEND MALE CHOIR SCOOP COVETED LLANGOLLEN TITLE

**BRIDGEND** Male Choir has won the prestigious male voice choir competition at Llangollen's International music competition, only the second south Wales choir to do so in 67 years!

Months and months of learning and rehearsal, under the musical direction of Rhiannon Williams-Hale and Stephanie Bailey, have paid off – with the Bridgend singers taking first prize in north Wales' world famous choir competition after taking runners up places at Torquay and Douglas, Isle Of Man in the past 18 months.

The wait has been worth it – choristers and music team are ecstatic and the cheer which accompanied the announcement was probably heard miles away.

Choir chairman, John Gould commented: "In my 27 years with the choir, this is my proudest moment. Everyone's worked so hard. Many, many thanks."

The result could not have been closer, with a mere fraction separating Bridgend

from runners-up, Bloemfontein Male Choir from South Africa.

This time, the tiny margin went Wales' way unlike the recent adverse result for their international rugby counterparts!

Despite the Bridgend choristers' attempt to win the blue riband, Choir of the World/Cor Y Byd competition later, when the winners of all sections came together, they were unsuccessful.

In a similarly close competition, the spoils were deservedly taken by the Argentine mixed choir, Estudio Coral Meridies.

What an experience and atmosphere for the 76 Bridgend choristers, who took the stage to a packed and knowledgeable audience. It was electric!

When everyone's feet are firmly back on the ground, choristers can look forward to a little more relaxed rehearsal room for the immediate future. Practice is on Thursday evenings 7.30pm-9.30pm at Oldcastle School, South Street, Bridgend, where visitors and new choristers are always welcome.

DN



**ABOVE:**  
*PICTURED (left to right) with winners plaque – Gareth Davies (vice chairman); Rhiannon Williams-Hale (musical director); John Gould (chairman); Gareth Reese (secretary).*

**LEFT:**  
*Some of the Bloemfontein choir*



**ABOVE:**  
*Chorister, Brian Lewis celebrates with Mickey on the 'Maes.'*

**LEFT:**  
*Bridgend Male Choir on stage*

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# Four years after child tragedy, MP welcomes electric gate measures

FOUR years after the tragic death of a child in Bridgend from an electronic gate, charity Gatesafe and its patron Madeleine Moon MP, have secured reforms to increase the safety of electric fences across the country.

Earlier this month the Government's Minister for Disabilities wrote to the Bridgend MP outlining a series of changes the Health and Safety Executive is implementing to improve the safety of electric gates across Wales and the whole of the UK.

The letter followed a meeting in March, where Mrs Moon and Richard Jackson, head of Gatesafe, which campaigns on the issue of gate safety, met with the Minister and the Health and Safety Executive, to call for changes to help prevent another tragic death occurring again.

Mrs Moon reported that after highlighting how the guidance on what is needed to ensure gate safety needed clarifying, the Minister in his response stated that the HSE had already drawn up simple advice in the forms of FAQs to clarify what would and wouldn't be safe.

The HSE is also drawing up more detailed advice for installers that will be available by the autumn.

The Gatesafe campaign emerged after July 2010, when five-year-old Karolina Golabek from Bridgend died when safety features on a gate near her home failed. In June the case against the two firms involved in building and maintaining the gate concluded. The firms admitted they had failed to follow safety guidelines and were fined £110,000 by the courts.

Following the announcement by the Government, Mrs Moon said: "I was especially pleased to see the Minister acknowledge the role Karolina's tragic death had had in leading his department to look at the relevant standards and to recognise that they did not provide adequate safeguards."

"The Department of Works and Pensions has also raised a formal objection with the European Commission and they expect the European Commission for Standardisation to work on revising



ABOVE: safety reforms are welcomed.

standards to meet the concerns we have raised.

"I feel confident that the changes needed to prevent further tragedies with electronic gates are now beginning to take place."

Richard Jackson, head of the charity GateSafe, said: "We are, of course, delighted to hear that the HSE has taken steps to improve the guidance on key safety issues for automated gates and we look forward to receiving feedback on the progress with the European Commission and European Committee for Standardisation."

"Whilst we absolutely welcome this progress, we maintain there is a need to demystify/simplify the advice to installers/end users on what actually constitutes a safe automated gate - and to deliver any revised recommendations in a format that is easy for the professional installer to comprehend."

"Our Gate Safe Aware training represents a very practical course, which focuses less on the theory of the standards, and more on the hands-on risk assessment-led approach to delivering a safe and compliant automated gate."

Further meetings between the HSE and Gatesafe are now planned to ensure these changes are embedded into practice across the UK.

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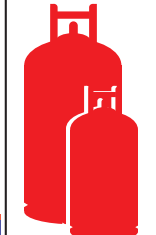
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## FUW's Royal Welsh charity ticket offer

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FUW president Emyr Jones said: "We are offering 12 people an exclusive chance to enjoy Pimms and strawberries on the balcony on Wednesday, July 23, between 2.30pm and 5pm to watch the Senior Welsh Cob Stallions – which is generally the highlight of the main ring events during the show."

"Tickets for this exclusive occasion can be purchased on a first-come first-served basis at the union's pavilion during the show and will cost £20 a ticket."

"There is also an opportunity to win two additional tickets to the event as part of a raffle prize. All proceeds raised will go towards our charities Tŷ Hafan and Tŷ Gobaith."

Sully-based Tŷ Hafan and Oswestry-based Hope House Children's hospices, which includes Tŷ Gobaith at Conwy, will share the proceeds of a fund formally launched by Mr Jones at the Royal Welsh Show last year.

For more information about the union's fundraising activities, contact 01970 820820.

## WI pass the baton

**NEXT** year sees the 100th anniversary of the founding of the WI movement and as part of the celebrations for this, a baton has been making its way around every federation in Wales and England, starting in Anglesey.

On August 19, the Glamorgan Board will receive the baton from Powys Brecon Federation and it will begin its journey through our area with an exciting programme of events to accompany it.

On August 20, it will visit Llanddewi with Knelson WI Rhossili, joined by the Coastguards.

The following day it will go on to Margam Park, before travelling to The Heritage Mining Museum. It will travel from Sophia Gardens by boat to Cardiff Bay and the Barrage on August 22.

On August 26, it will reach The National Assembly for Wales and will be met by Dame Rosemary Butler, the Presiding Officer.

## ONE FRANCHISE THAT DESERVES TO ENTER THE AGE OF EXTINCTION!

**IT'S often been said that should the world be blasted by a nuclear explosion, then the only thing to survive would be cockroaches.**

Based on his ability to churn out the same formulaic, overly-glossy "action spectacles" that spell "ker-ching" for studios, it seems you could add Michael Bay to that list.

Having said that he was finished with the *Transformers* franchise after 2011's *Dark of the Moon*, Bay has returned to the cash cow, having stated that this outing, subtitled *Age of Extinction*, will act as a new beginning for the franchise, starting a new trilogy.

It stars Mark Wahlberg as Cade Yeager, who along with his daughter (Nicola Peltz) and her boyfriend (Jack Reynor), find themselves caught up in an all-out war as Autobots and Decepticons are hunted down by a shadowy group marshalled by Harold Attinger (Kelsey Grammer), teaming with Optimus Prime. Cade must try to stop Attinger's plan, which sees Prime hunted by a

bounty hunter called Lockdown...

The *Transformers* franchise has been a case of diminishing returns since the first one, the films seemingly designed to show that Michael Bay loves fast cars, beautiful women, sunsets and computer-generated carnage.

The nadir seemed to be *Dark of the Moon*'s near-hour climax of loud noises and computerised robots battling each other.

For all Bay's talk of how this new trilogy would be different from the previous one, in reality, this comment is almost as foolhardy as those who consider these films to be in any way worthwhile.

*Age of Extinction* is a bone-jarringly atrocious piece of film making for an audience who care little for basic elements such as character development and storytelling – desensitised to Bay's lust for spectacle and flashy visuals by the video games they spend most of their lives on.

There is not one iota of artistic merit in this film at all; while the human cast have all been parachuted in to replace the previous trilogy's acting ensemble

(and the word 'acting' is used in the loosest possible terms), the main stars of the show are the titular robots, many of whom are new to proceedings but look the same and behave the same.

In all honesty, you're not all that bothered who they are, and as the film progresses, couldn't really care less about what happens to them.

The story takes a jumping off point (that, after their monotonous demolition of Chicago in the last film, both Autobots and Decepticons are being hunted down to pay for what they did, despite the Autobots' assistance in saving humanity).

It then completely wastes it with inane dialogue – a story that is purely designed to move from action set-piece to action set-piece, with character development and dialogue that is best described as hackneyed.

Yeager's daughter's boyfriend is a stock car racer – why? (When he performs a death-defying driven escape, we know it's not luck)

and fails to elicit anything from the audience other than painful apathy.

It doesn't help that it's duller than the average member of *The Only Way Is Essex* When said dullness is stretched to a running time of 160 minutes, it becomes an endurance test for the strongest-willed of cinemagoers.

It doesn't help that Bay makes the film look just like all the others – the action sequences feel like rereads from previous escapades, while the repetitive use of his stylistic tics, repeated use of wonky camera angles and heat hazes (not to mention the sunset shot that feels almost pastiche now), ends up grinding.

His cast work with what they have, but their performances just don't work. Wahlberg tries gamely, but can't help overplaying his hand to compensate for the lack of any real depth, while both Nicola Peltz and Jack Reynor are an improvement on the previous trilogy's young lovers but still fail to

resonate. Stanley Tucci salvages some pride with a hammy performance that knows the sort of film it's in, but Kelsey Grammer plays a one-note bad guy with no real aplomb.

It's hardly surprising that *Age of Extinction* is something of an exercise in making a film devoid of subtlety or indeed quality, particularly given how automated and intelligence-insulting the franchise has become.

But for a film supposedly based on new starts, it doesn't even come close to treading new ground.

While the popular opinion may differ, judging by the large box office this film has generated so far, both the franchise, and Michael Bay, should be entering an *Age of Extinction* themselves.

**VERDICT:** Monotonous, bloated, intelligence-insulting, leaden, creatively bankrupt, overlong, migraine inducing, painful... and that's just the opening hour. That such a terrible, low-brow



by  
**GARETH JAMIESON**  
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piece of supposed 'filmmaking' as *Transformers: Age of Extinction* can garner such commercial praise should bring a tear to any fan of cinema.

If you want to replicate the experience of watching this film, I suggest banging your head against a wall for 160 minutes, while listening to a soundtrack of explosions. Avoid at all costs.

**SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED:** *Transformers* films (2007-2011).

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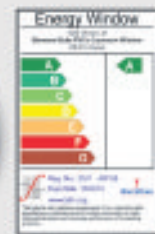
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## Former head is local president of Rotary



**LEFT:**  
At St Donats  
Church: Rev D V  
Ginn, new  
president Mary  
Noyes, past  
president Christine  
James and Rtn  
John James.

**JULY 7** saw the annual changeover of officers for the Rotary Club of Llantwit Major which began with a service of dedication at St Donats Church conducted by Rotarian Rev D Vivian Ginn and organist Lynn Brown.

Later at a dinner held at the West House Hotel, Rtn Mary Noyes was installed as the new club president, taking over from Rtn Christine James.

Mary Noyes, who lives in the village of Llanmaes, was born in Porth and later lived at St Clears and Porthcawl before moving to the village many years ago.

She studied at the Welsh College of Music and Drama before becoming a teacher. For many years before her recent retirement, Mary was headteacher of Llangan Primary School near Cowbridge. She has three children and is delighted also now to have a granddaughter.

Mary's first duty as the new club president was to thank Christine James for her very successful year in office and for the notable achievement, both in the town, and also in collecting enough for two Shelterboxes which will be used to help overseas disasters.

She hoped that she would have as productive year in office as the outgoing president and noted that the club had now entered its 34th year of service in the town.

Mary ended by saying that new members were always welcome and it was her wish that in her year the club would continue to grow.

Other officers include president-elect David Rogers, president nominee David Lane, secretary Richard Vidler and treasurer Paul Motte.

## 'DIRECT FROM WEST END' SHOWCASES STAGECOACH!

**AS** the school year comes to an end, all at Stagecoach Theatre Arts are reflecting on another great year with a real sense of satisfaction and achievement.

Their summer term ended with a sell-out show, 'Direct from the West End' at the Sherman Theatre Cardiff, where the talented performers received a standing ovation.

As part of their end-of-

term events, students also gave showcase demonstrations for family to enjoy, plus reports, achievement certificates and awards were presented.

One exceptional student, Matt Bartlett aged 18, received his 14-year award having enrolled at Stagecoach as a four-year-old. Matt aims to pursue a career in musical theatre, and is well on the way to realising his dream after gaining a place in a top London academy from

September. Stagecoach Bridgend, Cowbridge and Cardiff is owned by local couple Helene and Rob Reynolds, who take huge pride in their Stagecoach family, with over 400 children aged three to 18 years attending their schools each week.

For information about Stagecoach holiday workshops and the autumn term call 01446 772727.

## Life in the Navy was no lark!

### SOUTHERNDOWN WI NEWS

**THE** July monthly meeting of Southerndown WI was not a first for SWI to invite husbands and/or menfolk to hear the speaker, Mr Allan Higgins, talk about his life in the Navy.

It was felt it could be of interest or to recall personal experiences. However, it must have been entirely coincidental that when we invite the men, we are also asked to wear 'pants on head'....

What would Mrs Hoodless think? Readers may know that the slogan refers to bone marrow deficiency, in this case relating to the granddaughter of a previous member.

The procedure of bone marrow testing is quick and painless, but donors should be 16-30 years of age. A picture was taken for posterity.

Watching this strange WI behaviour was our guest, Allan Higgins, who joined the Navy, aged 15, in 1939 and observed life in the raw in warfare across the globe.

The Russian people made a big impression of him with Murrans and Archangel etched on his heart. After an adventurous and worthwhile life, Mr Higgins has a humorous demeanour and a twinkle in his eye that belie his 91 years.

Since the last meeting, some members took part in a trail treasure hunt at Swansea Marina (thanks to the county for instigating this). It was a very enjoyable, relaxed day with perfect weather.

There is no meeting in August although the committee have promised a get-together somehow, somewhere!

The next monthly meeting will be on September 11 at 7.15pm at St Brides Major church hall. The speaker is Chris Harrison - 'Tall Ships'. There is a charity fashion show with Samantha B on September 18; tickets £5, all welcome (subject to numbers).

BM

## Laughter all the way at Llanharry WI!

### LLANHARRY WI NEWS

**AFTER** the meeting in April and resolutions in May, we were hoping for a more lively evening in June, and we certainly got it - our speaker, Mrs Helen Williams, had come all the way from Llandeilo to get us to 'Send a Cow to Charity'!

This lady certainly knew how to put over her story, and made a rather sombre tale of poverty and need seem very appealing. This charity started over 30 years ago in Uganda, when cows in calf were originally shipped over there - nowadays, they are bought locally.

The cow was a means of providing milk for the family or to sell, which in turn provided money for education, clothes and better living conditions.

She had a large number of 'props' with her and we found

ourselves playing instruments, helping cows give birth, and handling bags and bottles of strange-looking substances. The members were crying with laughter over her antics.

What a good night! with a good cause being helped along the way. The competition of an animal ornament was won by a cow, what else!

The July meeting was going to be an anti-climax, we thought, after the hilarity of June. Mrs Lorna Pearson had come from Cwmbran, the other side of Wales this time. Her subject was humorous poems and odes with a Welsh flavour - most of her material was written by herself and with a few jokes thrown in, we were soon rocking in the aisles again.

We have had two very good meetings with everyone going home in a light-hearted mood. Roll on September I say!

We meet on September 2 at 7.30pm at the Church Hall, Llanharry. Visitors welcome.

TF

## Changing coastline inspires artist Fran

**A** LOCAL artist from Ogmere-by-Sea has drawn on her fascination with the sea and the coastline to put together an exhibition of her paintings at St Donats Arts Centre.

Francine Davies's exhibition is one that, in the main, explores the interaction between the sea and the coast.

The paintings capture the power of the sea as it rolls into beaches, crashes

against rocks and harbours, and moves pebbles around with each new wave.

Francine, who is married with two children, said: "Whether it be the intricate patterns on the water as the tide comes in, or the power of the waves as they erode the coastline, this environment is a constant fascination, and one that I hope to share with the observer".

The exhibition runs at St Donats Arts Centre, Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm, until July 27. It is advisable to telephone the centre (01446 799100) to confirm opening times.



**ABOVE:** Francine Davies with one of her paintings.

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## Green groups together

**BARRY&VALE** Friends of the Earth had a successful meeting on July 1 joining together with three groups concerned to protect the environment.

They were joined by a representative from the Primrose Hill group in Cowbridge who are opposing green field housing.

The group were also joined by representatives of HOPE in the Vale, who are opposed to housing on the golf course and Walter's Farm. The battle continues there, and at Merthyr Dyfan, where residents are asking some difficult questions of planners, who cut down the trees and vegetation in one of Barry's remaining green

spaces, while plans for the Lagoon and the future of the field seem not so clear.

The Docks incinerator action group will be meeting in the Castle Hotel at 7.30pm on Tuesday, July 22, to discuss the Biomass wood chip burner proposed by Dow Corning.

Barry&Vale FoE welcome the green energy developments at the Bendricks and call for more solar farms, wind farms and other green energy forms to be developed in the Vale, not the mad dash for fracked oil and gas.

The FoE Group will be meeting next, on August 5, with a September meeting focused on the state of nature in the Vale.

KEITH STOCKDALE





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## Tom cycling from Calais to Rome in memory of his Dad

**A YOUNG**  
Bridgend graduate  
is taking on a solo  
cycling challenge of  
1,100 miles for  
charity.

Tom Williams lost his father to a stroke in 1999 when he was just seven years old. Now aged 22, Tom is determined to complete an incredible fundraising challenge for the Stroke Association, that will see him cycle from Calais to Rome in 14 days.

On August 8, Tom will begin his journey by train and ferry to Calais. Early next day, he'll be setting off from Calais to his first stop in Saint-Amand-les-Eaux.

Over the 14 days, he'll cycle to

Luxembourg and back through France to Switzerland. Tom will then cycle into northern Italy and down to the coast, where he'll pass the Tower of Pisa on his way to Rome.

Tom explained: "I've just graduated from Cardiff University in geology and I'll be doing a conservation internship next year in America, so this is my best chance to

do the trip.

"It's been 15 years since my father passed away and now I'm old enough I can do something really meaningful in his memory and help raise funds and awareness for the Stroke Association."

"Had my father lived, I know the Stroke Association would have been there to help. They do absolutely amazing work from research and

prevention to family support."

Bridget Stadden, community and events fundraising manager for Wales, said: "We are so pleased that the Stroke Association will benefit from Tom's spectacular challenge. We hope that his journey will help us to raise awareness of stroke as well as much needed funds to continue our work."

"There are over

11,000 people across Wales who have a stroke each year and over 65,100 people living with the effects of stroke. Across the UK there are approximately 152,000 strokes every year. That is more than one every five minutes."

The Stroke Helpline (0303 303 3100) provides information and support on stroke. More information at [www.stroke.org.uk](http://www.stroke.org.uk)



## Loveable Tikka loves one-to-one cuddles!

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre. (Telephone: 01656 725219)

**TIKKA** the Akita is 11 years young and is a lovely girl who enjoys a cuddle and gentle potters for exercise!

Tikka is worried around other dogs, so she will need careful introductions when out and about, and would prefer to be the only dog in the home. Tikka will make someone a lovely companion.

She would like an owner who is home most of the day, who will give her lots of attention and cuddles. She has particularly enjoyed spending the past week with our lovely work experience student, Ellie (pictured).

We all love her here and she has been through a lot, so we are desperate for her to find a loving home! Children in the family will need to be over 14 years old.

LINDA FEAGAN,

Supporter Relations Officer, Bridgend

TIKKA,  
WITH  
ELLIE.



## Rotarians step up aid to foodbanks



Rotarians and Foodbank team members.

**MEMBERS of the Rotary Club of Barry joined forces with team members of the Barry and Vale Foodbank to help with the collection of food donations from Tesco customers outside the store on Port Road, Barry.**

In addition to this 'hands-on' support, the Rotary Club has been supporting the Barry and Vale Foodbank for the past two years, purchasing food to be donated.

Due to the increased demand on the foodbank service, the club recently increased their donation to £1,000 of food per Rotary year.

With the ever-increasing demand for access to the foodbank, the small room in the church they were originally using was no

longer suitable to accommodate food supplies.

To overcome the problem, the Barry and Vale Foodbank have taken a short lease on an industrial facility and the Barry Rotary Club have purchased shelving and working with the local company that supplied it, fitted it free of charge.

Both organisations would like to thank Tesco for their assistance and the general public for their continued support which is very much appreciated.

Rotary has 1.2 million members (men and women) worldwide who form a global network of business, professional and community volunteers.

Barry Rotary Club meets weekly in the Mount Sorrel Hotel on Thursdays (6pm for 6.30pm). Call 01446 710204, or look online at [www.ribi.org](http://www.ribi.org).



# The worrying signs that put beekeepers on maximum alert

**WILL the calls to attend swarms get any fewer this month? It does not seem to be likely as the calls are still coming in.**

However, there is a definite change in the weather, cooler conditions are present and this will bring about a change in our colonies' activities.

Here at Fonmon Apiary, three of my hives have swarmed, despite my best efforts. Two of the three swarmed colonies are proceeding as they should – that is, the new queens are now present and it will be at least a month before I can expect to see any internal signs i.e. eggs being laid.

Each new queen should make a mating flight from her hive to meet up with males (drones) and on her return, a new colony structure will proceed. As with all things to

do with beekeeping, the weather plays a dominant role. If conditions are such that the new queens cannot make the required mating flight, I will have a colony of bees where the unmated queen can, and will, start laying eggs, – but the bees that will emerge from these eggs will be drones (males)

This colony will be doomed, as it must have workers present (females)

I will keep a close eye on things. Now, what about the third colony? It was very noisy when I opened it up – instead of a gentle, shall we say, humming sound – the bees were frantic and a distinct roaring noise was apparent.

This should alert the beekeeper as it signifies that all is not well. They are queen-less. The new queen may well have gone on a mating flight and has failed to return. A shower of rain may have caught her out, or a

## NEWS FROM FONMON APIARY by Harold Williams

bird could have seized her!

Whatever the reason, this colony now has problems, there are no eggs present so no new queen can be forthcoming. Left to themselves one of the existing females will start laying eggs but they, too, will only emerge as drones (males) and we are back to square one.

(I have used one of the swarms I have gathered to hopefully correct things, but I will describe the method in a later article).

### ROYAL INTEREST

Dyffryn Gardens had a royal visit this month and a display of the beekeeping activity was requested. On entering our marquee, there was

much interest shown by Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall, as they are both beekeepers. They remarked upon the predominance of swarms, so even royal bees do their own thing.

I had a conversation with the Duchess and she is aware of current problems in the beekeeping world, her knowledge stems from the fact that she has colonies of her own.

So far, this year has been very suitable for all insects, but their numbers are still declining. You only have to look at the front of your car to confirm this. The lack of dead insects on the bodywork compared with years gone by is as good an indicator as you can get.

## Undertaker's fascinating tales at the Dinas Powys Probus Club

**JOHN BETTLES, founder and director of Green Willow Funerals recently, gave a talk to the club entitled 'Humour in the Funeral Profession.'**

John explained that he came into the profession after a varied career, mainly in services to the community.

He arrived in Cardiff in 1975 and in 1982 became chief executive of Cardiff YMCA. His father had left his original job because he had always wanted to drive a hearse and so started his own funeral service.

In Cardiff, John realised that all but one of the funeral companies in Cardiff were not independent family firms, as they claimed to be, but were owned by large American or French businesses.

Green Willow was set-up, with the vow that they would offer whatever type of service a grieving family wanted, with full personal care at a fair and reasonable cost. In their first year, 1997, they handled 50 funerals, currently they handle 700.

John then moved on to talk about the

distinctive humour that sometimes happens in what is, of course, a very emotional moment for the family.

Unusual musical choices at cremations included Frank Sinatra singing 'Smoke gets in your eyes', and Gracie Fields singing 'Wish me luck as you wave me goodbye'.

On one occasion, John had to organise, with only four days notice, the funeral of an aged aunt for two American ladies who had to fly back home at short notice.

Without time to consider what music would be appropriate, he left the choice to a very young and nervous organist.

The coffin was brought in to a spirited version of 'The Dambuster's March', which the American ladies loved.

Green Willow is owned by the trustees of Cardiff YMCA and all profit, after normal overheads have been covered, is passed to that charity to further its good works within the community.

The vote of thanks was given by Peter Hilary-Jones.

## Harrowing toll of Great War battles

**NEWLY-ELECTED chairman, Jean Bisham, welcomed over 100 members to Sully U3As July meeting and her first duty was to present the past chairman, Gill Mathias, with a necklace and card with the thanks of the membership.**

She thanked Gill for the three years she had served as Sully U3A's first chairman.

The speaker was Dr Jonathan Hicks, a military historian who was born and lives in Barry. He has won awards for two of his books.

Dr Hicks gave an illustrated talk on Barry and the Great War. He said his interest in the Great War was sparked by the involvement in the conflict of his grandfather and great uncle.

Because of his research, 74 names were added in 2007 to the memorial in Barry Memorial Hall: 8,000 men from Barry enlisted and he highlighted the stories of several of them set against the horrendous conditions that the men faced in the trenches.

The scale of casualties and numbers of dead was hard to imagine and their young age was particularly poignant. He reminded the audience of the part



played by women as clerks, nurses and factory workers.

There were many questions from the audience and Dr Hicks was thanked by Jean for giving the members such a memorable talk.

To mark the centenary of the outbreak of World War One, members of Sully U3A's local history group have compiled a booklet on the men commemorated on the memorial in St John Baptist Church, Sully and on their parents' gravestones in the churchyard which should be available shortly.

In conjunction with this, pupils from Sully School recently took part in a competition associated with War Medals with prizes being sponsored by Sully U3A.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, August 14 at 2pm in The Old School, Sully. This will be an open meeting when the various groups will be available to talk about their activities.

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### GWNAF gychwyn ar fy ngyrfa

#### Cyfle gwych i bobl ifanc medrus 16–24 oed sy'n chwilio am waith

Chwilia dudalen Twf Swyddi Cymru ar Facebook i weld y swyddi gwag diweddaraf. Mae'r farchnad waith yn gystadleuol iawn, felly gwna'n siŵr mai ti sy'n gweld y swydd gyntaf. 'Hoffa' ni ar Facebook a chei ddiweddariadau awtomatig am y swyddi gwag diweddaraf. Efallai y cei dy synnu pan weli'r amrywiaeth o swyddi sydd ar gael! Dyma gyfran yn unig o'r swyddi gwag sydd ar gael yn dy ardal di.

- Cynorthwydd Marchnata'r We yn Nhon-teg
- Swyddog Cefnogaeth a Gwybodaeth yn Nhreforest
- Hyfforddwr Campfa ym Mhentre
- Peiriannydd Gofalu am Garafanau dan Hyfforddiant ym Mhontyclun
- Cynorthwydd Salon yng Nglyn Ebwy
- Cynorthwydd Salon ym Mrynawr
- Cynorthwydd Cysylltiadau Cyhoeddus yng Nghaerdydd
- Ymgynghorydd Penodi dan Hyfforddiant yng Nghaerdydd

#### Oes gen ti ddiddordeb?

Yna dos i'n tudalen Facebook i gael rhagor o wybodaeth. Os nad yw'r un o'r rhain yn addas i ti, cofia, mae digon o rai eraill yn y rhestr, ac mae swyddi newydd yn cael eu llwytho bob dydd. Pwy a wyr, gallai'r swydd newydd ddelfrydol ianio o fewn dim ond un clic.



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**Cyrhaedda di'r swydd yn gyntaf!**  
'Hoffa' ni i weld y swyddi gwag diweddaraf yn fyw a chael rhybudd ar unwaith am gyfleoedd gwaith newydd!

Wyt ti'n gobeithio defnyddio'r cymwysterau y gweithiaist mor galed i'w hennill? Mae Twf Swyddi Cymru'n helpu miloedd o bobl ifanc sydd â'r sgiliau cywir i gael swydd, ennill cyflog am chwe mis a chael profiad gwaith gwerthfawr. Efallai mai dyma fydd dechrau dy yrfa.

Mae gen ti'r sgiliau. Mae gen ti'r dalent a'r ymrwymiad. Ond mae cael y swydd gyntaf hollbwysig honno'n gallu bod yn anodd os nad oes gen ti brofiad.

Dyna pam mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi sefydlu Twf Swyddi Cymru. Bydd miloedd o bobl ifanc yn cael y cyfle i ennill chwe mis o brofiad mewn swydd go iawn gan ennill yr Isafswm Cyflog Cenedlaethol o leiaf. Mae Twf Swyddi Cymru'n creu'r swyddi newydd yma drwy helpu i dalu cost y cyflogau a thrwy weithio gyda chyflogwyr i'w gwneud hi'n haws iddynt benodi'r person ifanc cywir.

#### Efallai mai dyma fydd dy gyfle mawr!

Wyt ti rhwng 16 a 24 oed ac yn ddi-waith ond mae gen ti'r sgiliau i lwyddo? Wyt ti newydd raddio neu ar fin gorffen dy gwrs neu raglen hyfforddi? Beth bynnag yw dy sefyllfa, os wyt ti'n ifanc, wedi dysgu'r sgiliau ac yn chwilio am waith, efallai y bydd Twf Swyddi Cymru'n ddelfrydol i ti!

#### Galli ganfod swydd, gwirfoddoli neu sefydlu dy fusnes dy hun.

Y peth gwych am Dwf Swyddi Cymru yw ei fod yn hyblyg iawn. Gelli ennill profiad drwy gael swydd mewn busnes neu mewn prosiect yn y gymuned, neu gelli hyd yn oed gael cymorth i sefydlu busnes ar dy ben dy hun. Dewisa'r llwybr sy'n gywir i ti.

#### Angen cefnogaeth ychwanegol?

Efallai dy fod ti'n hyderus ac yn barod i fynd amdani. Ond os nad, gall Twf Swyddi Cymru helpu hefyd; gyda'r swyddi gwag sydd ar gael os oes gen ti'r sgiliau ond rwyf ti angen ychydig o gefnogaeth ychwanegol.



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## PHOTOGRAPHS by IAN DIXON

RECENTLY, Peterston-super-Ely Church and Community Hall, was the venue for the annual village flower show.

This very popular event attracted a large number of entries including horticultural displays, craft work, culinary classes, and handicraft.

Following an address by chairman Anne Shaw, the many prizes were presented by the president, Chris Brain.

Members of the flower club organised the much-appreciated refreshments and the proceedings were closed with a raffle.



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# As brave Beth fights on in cancer clinic... Friends and supporters rally to Hanover

**Report by  
CAROLINE SARLL.  
Photographs by  
Ffion Margetson.**

CANCER and comedy are not usually obvious bedfellows. But this week, as former midwife and cancer sufferer Beth Margetson receives treatment in the controversial Hyperthermia Clinic in Hanover, it is her trademark sideways look at life – along with the many friends who are out there supporting her – which is her main buffer against the sometimes gruelling treatment.

"I took cakes into the clinic today and, as I can't speak German, I announced in the full waiting room, in Welsh mode, that I had brought them a bag 'mit' (with) cacen. Half the room looked horrified and the other half were hysterical.

"Carmen, the nurse was crying laughing and told me what I'd just said: that I had brought them a bag of poo (kacke)! A bit of a faux pas, you could say, but I am bonding through laughter".

Beth's stay and daily treatment has been punctuated during the three weeks by the arrival of friends and supporters, popping up almost conveyor-belt style.

Fellow midwife Bev Poulton flew out with Beth and her 16-year-old daughter Ffion, to be joined later by Kay Sheridan and Philippa Horton from Balkwill's Chemist. Husband Chris, behind Beth all the way, is staying at home to look after Peter, Beth's dad.

I arrived, in reporter mode, on the day that Kay and Philippa left, to be swiftly joined the next day by Linda Johnson, a colleague and friend from Bridgend College, where Beth teaches health and social care.

During the last week, midwife Angela Hopkin and her sister-in-law Sally, will complete the chain of supporters.

"I couldn't have done this without you all," says Beth, a little tearful. "You've been such a help to me and to Ffion, who is going through so much. Thank you all so much. I don't know how I can ever repay you".

Beth, of course, has already repaid her wellwishers a hundred times over with her indomitable spirit, tenacity and the ability to see a silver lining every step of the way.

During my three days there, despite the traumas Beth had to endure – having your whole body heated up to over 40 degrees while lying stock still for nearly three hours inevitably takes its toll – she quipped her way through every challenge:

"I've got to have this anal probe to take my temperature while I lie here. I'm covered in tin foil from top to toe. All I need is a sprig of thyme in my mouth as well and I'm like a Bernard Matthews turkey!"

Such levity, of course, belies the seriousness of Beth's situation. Beth, who has battled her metastatic breast cancer since her diagnosis in 2012, has 32 tumours in her liver and cancer throughout her bones.



**ABOVE: Beth is wrapped in insulating material, ready to suffer the extreme heat hyperthermia treatment.**

She has already had her lymph nodes, her ovaries and one breast removed. Her battle to receive a life-extending drug, Afinitor, denied her by the NHS, has already been well documented here.

Tireless fundraising meant that she was eventually able to buy the "£100 a pop" medication. When she was first diagnosed, she was given six months to live. But, like her own mother, who lived for 23 years with her own cancer – astoundingly without any treatment – Beth is determined to defy such prognoses and the system which advocates such terminal diagnoses and hopelessness.

As soon as I arrived last week, I was met with her usual stemwinder-style oratory, which has galvanised the people in her hometown:

"In Wales, I have been in a system of care which is paternalistic and is driven by funding and statistics. I have come here to a place that is driven by love and hope.

"It's not about when and how we'll die, but how we are going to live. They are treating me as a person and looking at my illness holistically. I'm not just a breast. I'm not just a liver.

"Since I've been here, I haven't once heard the word 'death'. I am going to live – and what's more, I'm going to change the culture that creates such fear and desperation".

Kay, who witnesses recently diagnosed cancer patients coming into the pharmacy regularly, endorses Beth's attitude: "If you go to the doctor in Wales with cancer, they can almost frighten you to death. I've seen how the approach here gives people confidence.

"They've treated Beth as a human being and shown her what she already knows – that you don't have to give up".

But this method, which is not without its critics, comes at a price. Beth's trip – funded by the generosity of local people – amounts to over £20,000. The weekly combination of hyperthermia, bio-resonance, ozone therapy and counselling costs 4,000 euros, with travel, food and accommodation and daily prescriptions for an array of herbal and alternative preparations on top.

Beth's decision to access this treatment has met with resistance from many of the routine doctors she has seen and it is not acknowledged as an effective method by the NHS or by leading cancer charities in the UK. I asked Dr. Wolf, the clinic's founder, who has a background in psychiatry from Heidelberg University, whether there was proof that hyperthermia worked:

"Yes, of course. I've been practising it for over 30 years. There have been studies done. But I don't like to talk about survival rates.

"We are interested in the quality of a patient's life. I would hope that Mrs. Margetson's tumours will not grow any bigger, so that she can live a few more years. But it is impossible to predict exactly how long someone will live.

"It depends on how they got their cancer and many other factors. We look at the body, mind and soul".

Was he bothered by the critics? "No. I am used to it. The problem is that traditional methods, like chemotherapy, are all bound up with a multi-million euro industry. It's all politics and money.

"You have to contend with the 'pharma-mafia'. And trying to get both sides of medicine – the alternative and the orthodox – to agree is like trying to create harmony between Israel and Palestine. You used to be able to get this treatment via our Krankenkasse (German health insurance), but it was stopped in 2004, due to the cost".

Does he not think that chemotherapy and other orthodox methods have their place?

"Yes, but I'm not a friend of chemo. If you look at those flowers over there...if they were wilting, you wouldn't pour poison on them, would you? And that's what chemotherapy essentially is".

The clinic does, in fact, administer a low-dose form of chemotherapy, called Insulin Potentiation Therapy. Again, this has been criticised as an ineffective and even dangerous treatment, with caveats noted on both Wikipedia and Quackwatch.

The same goes for bio-resonance, which uses electromagnetic waves to diagnose deficiencies and surpluses in a patient. When Beth has her session, she

is told that she has too much acidity and lead in her body and a deficiency of Vitamin C.

During my three day stay, Beth is also prescribed Vitamin B17, which comes from the stones of apricots and other fruits. It is not authorised for sale in the EU and banned by the FDA in the US.

I push Alexander Meister, International Patient Care Manager at the clinic, sitting by Dr. Wolf to translate, for further evidence of their treatment's efficacy. Given the extent of Beth's cancer, how long would they expect she can survive?

"We hope that Mrs Margetson will live as long as she wishes to. Having said that, and knowing what we know about cancer, we see her coming as a first step into a new direction she is undertaking.

"Time will tell us if her goal to see her daughter studying can be replaced by the goal to raise her grandchildren. Because we are all individual, with different genes, living backgrounds, dietary preferences etc, we'd rather focus on extending their living (sic) expectancy, than on curing cancer.

"A nearly impossible, but reachable task. There is a study on our website which shows that liver cancer patients who have hyperthermia have a 250 per cent greater chance of finding health than those who do not".

Of "finding health"? "Yes. The study was carried out by Dr. Sasz for SEER. It means that these patients who have hyperthermia have a 250 per cent greater chance of extending their lives than those who don't".

I ask Alexander, a welcoming, warm young man, with a degree in European Business Management from Cardiff, how he deals with the critics.

"I agree with Dr. Wolf. You'll never get the conventional doctors and the alternative ones to agree. We both talk electricity. But it's like a nuclear and a solar engineer. They both 'talk electricity', but from a completely different perspective.

"In the UK, I hear that patients are constantly told how long they have to live. What hope is there left when you do that? We'd rather say...how do you strengthen the immune system? Let's look at the patients' nutrition.

"We offer a palette of treatments and it's hard to say which ones work. We're not allowed to use the word 'cure'. It's even banned in America. We're not God, so we don't know how long an individual has. But we don't lay our hands on a patient when they come through our door and say everything is gone. Everyone in the clinic here swears on an oath".

So their hopes for Beth?

"In an ideal scenario, Mrs. Margetson will live until she is 80. Yes, that has happened". He hesitates. "But of course, it is not the norm".

When I push him regarding efficacy of hyperthermia, he adds: "Studies – the one I've just mentioned – show that liver cancer patients WITHOUT hyperthermia have a 250 per cent worse chance of prolonging their lives, of being cured, of being healthy again". A mention, after all, of being cured. This is what Beth will cling to.

Out in the waiting room, I meet other patients. There is a four-year-old boy from Poland waiting for treatment with his parents. He has a sarcoma on his lower leg. The clinic is forbidden by law from treating German children.

Next to them sits a 44-year-old man from Ireland, whom Beth has befriended during her stay. "Jim" has been ill for over four years, with bowel cancer initially, which has now metastasised into his liver, lungs and aorta.

Unlike Beth, he is withdrawn and exhausted looking. The father of three teenage daughters has already travelled to a private clinic in Mexico – "not much good" – they only took some blood and didn't do much else – and claims that he rid himself of most of his cancer a year ago simply by consuming wheatgrass.

"That sort of cancer therapy is big in Ireland". This time around, however, that method has failed to work. He sits staring at the floor, sipping the liver-cleansing tea provided by the clinic, his enormous eyes hollow and tired within his gaunt face.

"This method has got to work, hasn't it?" he says quietly. "Just look at all the new people walking through the door every day. I'm annoyed that my



**The monitoring equipment shows that Beth's body temperature has been taken up to 42.5 degrees Celsius.**



**A lighter moment! Clockwise from top left: Ffion Margetson, Bev Poulton and Beth.**

tumour markers have gone up since I've been here, but they've told me that this is common mid-treatment and that I shouldn't worry".

Beth has taken "Jim" under her wing, bolstering him with her positive outlook, endlessly entertaining approach, supplies of organic food and utter faith.

"Don't you worry about that. It's due to a flare or spike in levels in response to the treatment. It doesn't mean anything. Come on, now Jim. Let's get a bit more positive, shall we?"

During my three days with Beth, she undergoes a catalogue of treatments: as well as the Vitamin C infusions, ozone therapy in which her own blood is infused with oxygen then reinserted into her body and bio-resonance therapy. There is the local hyperthermia directly on to her liver and the much less tolerable whole body hyperthermia.

Coffee enemas are recommended, an approach pioneered as part of the much-criticised Gerson therapy. Beth is adamant that this holistic approach is the way forward.

"I have a degree in Public Health and I'm a qualified nurse and midwife. I know how to research things – and I wouldn't have come here at a cost of £25,000 if I didn't think it was going to work. I'm a bit of a pariah though with the doctors back home. Conventional oncologists will do anything within their power to make you not go".

I sit with Beth during one of her hyperthermia sessions, taking over briefly from Ffion, who has been resolutely beside Beth, every step of the way. Suspended on a hammock, over an infra-red lamp, Beth soon gets hotter and hotter and is literally dripping with sweat. It is uncomfortable to watch, but Beth, full of resolve and her unshakeable faith, still manages to talk:

"The hotter I get, the more agitated I become. But I'm better this week. I was hysterical last week. I close my eyes and lie here and just visualise the tumours popping. I'm okay. I'm okay".

Hyperthermia as a treatment has its roots in ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome. Liquids heated up to a vapour on stones and bricks were used to treat what was probably breast cancer. It has been referred to by some as the "fourth leg" of cancer treatment, but it is still not recognised as a mainstream option and lacks regulation.

But there are doctors who acknowledge its benefits. A few months ago, Beth consulted Justin Stebbing, Professor of Cancer Medicine at Imperial College, London, much in the news lately regarding his views on immunotherapy, which he believes is the way forward in the war against cancer.

Stebbing has written about hyperthermia treatment in the medical journal, The Lancet: "There's a lot of evidence that hyperthermia can work.

"The few, but impressive trials are evidence that this is not just anecdotal technology, but one that warrants continued investments and investigation. The studies' improvements in tumour responses would generally be hailed a success had they been a pharmaceutical product.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 24**



**ABOVE:  
Beth with fellow patient Hannelore.  
BELOW:  
With the clinic owner, Dr Peter Wolf.**





# Porthcawl woman's fight to beat cancer means braving painful treatment regime in Germany

By CAROLINE SARLL  
(Continued from page 23).

"Hyperthermia requires trained personnel and specialised equipment. Scepticism is often justified but data is increasing and the design of ongoing studies is robust. It is time that this technology is given the attention it deserves".

I ring Dr Stebbing for a chat. He is the only doctor who is willing to talk to me, despite weeks of trying to access an opinion from the conventional arm of medicine:

"The problem is that there is no standardised technique for this kind of therapy yet. So it has not done itself any favours. We don't have comprehensive data yet – but what is there is promising. Hyperthermia is closer to conventional medicine than Chinese medicine and you can use it next to any modality".

The day I leave, I am given the opportunity to talk to another patient, 62-year-old Hannelore, from Germany. Diagnosed with breast cancer five years ago, she had a lumpectomy, then came to Hannover for this treatment. She remained cancer free for four years, but discovered a lump in her other breast last year.

"I hadn't cleansed my soul" she tells me gently. "I know why it came back". Hannelore believes firmly in this method and comes to the clinic every two weeks for one day.

"It is expensive, but chemotherapy and radiotherapy cost more. I'll know when to stop coming. I know when I feel healed".

Biokrebs, the leading organisation in Germany dealing with "biological" and alternative cancer therapies states: "Concerning metastatic tumours of the liver, hyperthermia is excellent when combined with chemotherapy, increasing the remission rate by 12 per cent.

"It is not yet a widely acknowledged treatment in oncology, even though there are numerous clinical studies. Hopefully, the majority who still think that hyperthermia is the dead-end among oncology methods, might be convinced of the opposite and become less sceptical in the future".

Beth and I have a final meeting with Dr. Wolf. He tells her that the "few cancer cells she has are not going to kill her" and, extraordinarily, that "she can live a hundred years".

You can tell that this doctor has a background in psychiatry. To him, imparting the feelgood factor in his patients is key. And who are we to argue with that?

Will Beth have a scan at the end of the three weeks? "No. She should go by how she feels. Go home and rest. Continue with our therapies. Then come back again in a couple of months".

To do that, a further £20,000 will need to be raised. Dr. Wolf tells me that the ideal course of treatment is "six weeks each time", which would take the cost for Beth to nearer £40,000.

When it's time for me to go, Beth becomes tearful, as she has done when each group of visitors has left her. I reflect on my three days in Hannover with this extraordinary woman and her lovely young daughter and I bow to her ongoing bravery and courage.

To her irrepressible positive outlook, her amazing sense of humour, her stoicism and her inspirational attitude. Yes, the German treatment is controversial and expensive, but – and here's the rub – what price can you put on hope?

And are our doctors, "the spineless sheep leading such a vital service" Beth refers to, simply closing their eyes to this non-drug-based approach, when, in reality, if the trials are to be believed, it really can help eradicate some tumours? If the latter is the case, the need to act is urgent.

One thing cancer sufferers – and that includes Beth – do not have on their side, is time. "Smokescreens and political claptrap needs to go" says Beth angrily.

"There are people dying in droves because the doctors and specialists are in thrall to the drug companies".

Just before I leave, I ask Beth if she has reassessed her goals since being there.

"Yes, I have. I wanted to see Pffion get to University, but now I'm going to see her get married...maybe divorced (giggles all round)...and I'm going to be there to see her through pregnancy and childbirth.

"I'm going back to Wales now and I'm going to open up a juice bar – not much room in the vestry at Tabernacl, but I'll have a go. I'm going to tell people in Wales about this...where can you get a green juice in Wales?

"You can get a McDonald's on every corner, but not an organic juice! Here there are organic supermarkets



ABOVE: Beth, coping with the extreme heat of a treatment session.



ABOVE: Another of the clinic's special treatments.

BELOW: Mother and daughter, keeping each other's spirits up.

everywhere. No wonder we are ill. And we've got to stop all this fear and money...and Godless culture. I'm a testimony to faith. I'm in a good place".

In the background, in a now homely apartment littered with bulging fruit bowls, clothes and bottles of medication, Linda is making organic minestrone, to be served with gluten-free flatbread, oxygenated water and organic fresh fruit salad.

Ffion is practising her ever-improving German, grinning from ear to ear. "Danke Schoen!" she chirps, proud of her linguistic aptitude and perhaps unaware of yet another coping mechanism she has developed.

Beth, delivering irreverent comments machine-gun style, looks as radiant ("fabulous fuschia lipstick!") as ever. Grabbing an organic orange, she starts planning a weekend trip to Berlin.

When she gets there, she texts me: "My tumour markers are down by 300!". Full of cancer she may be, but our Beth, unafraid of grappling with the Goliath that is our current medical system and unafraid of a disease she will not allow to conquer her, continues to be full of zest.

Long may she – and the fundraising – continue.



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# Wide variety of country pursuits keep the crowds entertained at the Bridgend Show

## PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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IT was a busy three days at the Pencoed College campus when the Bridgend Show was held last weekend.

There was plenty for the visitors to watch, and lots of activities for all ages to enjoy.

Also there was the Mayor of Bridgend County, Coun Gary Thomas (below) who tried his hand at some of the stalls.



**RIGHT:**  
Michigan and  
the vaulting  
squad from  
Talygarn Riding  
School show off  
their skills.







The pupils involved in the club: Ellie Stuart, Chloe Ballinger, Taleigha Sims, Lisa Grice, Ellie Morgan, Thea Ruscoe, and Bethan Roberts.

## Rhws pupils look to a role in the community

OVER the course of this academic year, Rhws Primary School has carried out a 'Community Club,' with pupils from years 4 to 6 focused on giving back to their local community.

This past term has seen seven year-6 girls spend time with the staff and residents of Bay View Nursing Home in Rhooose. The girls planned and carried out a detailed timetable full of a range of fun and engaging activities for the residents.

From arts and crafts, to story-telling to performing multiple song and dance routines, the pupils have selflessly volunteered their spare time in school and at home. They have shown a level of understanding and responsibility beyond their years and have worked very hard to enrich the lives of others.

Rhws Primary School and Bay View nursing home now look forward to continuing this relationship into the next academic year.

JA

### OUT AND ABOUT

**THIS Sunday, July 20, at 2.30pm, the Methodist churches of Barry and St Athan will meet by the beach at Barry Island for a 'Summer Praise' service.**

For more information, contact Rev Peter Taylor on 01446 406262.

'Razzamatazz Robots' is this year's theme for the Methodist Churches' Holiday Clubs across the Vale for children aged 4-11.

For full details of dates and venues, contact Deacon Samantha Taylor on 01446 406262 or deaconsam@live.co.uk

### Valeways walks

**ON July 20 at 2pm, 'Lavernock around' starts at The Captain's Wife, Lavernock.**

On Monday, July 21 at 10am, 'Walk and Click' starting at Cosmeston park visitor centre.

On Tuesday, July 22 at 1.30pm, 'Dyffryn and St Lythan's circular' starting at Dyffryn Gardens entrance to shop.

On Wednesday, July 23, the coffee shop strollers meet at 10.30am at Cosmeston park visitor centre.

On Thursday, July 24 at 10am, 'Up the Valley', starting at the Cross Inn,

Llanblethian, Church Road CF71 7JF.

On Sunday, July 27 at 2pm, 'Summer walk to lakes', starting at St Peter's Church, Mill Road, Dinas Powys. Also on July 27 at 2pm, 'Dros y Twyni/Over the Downs', starting at the Bush Inn car park, St Hilary.

**Penarth open gardens trail THE 18th annual Open Gardens Trail in Penarth takes place on Saturday, July 26 from 10am-6pm and Sunday, July 27 from 11am-5pm.**

There are nine gardens and Sully Terrace private allotments open. Artist Diana Mead, will be selling paintings and cards at 77 Coleridge Avenue; Cathy O'Docherty has a glass studio; 4 Tudor Close will have homemade marmalades/jams/chutneys/cakes as well as filled rolls and cream teas; extensive plant stall and raffle.

Admission is by rover ticket, purchased at any one of the gardens, £5; includes tea/coffee at No. 4; children admitted free. All proceeds go to The Children's Society.

### Charity barbecue

**THERE will be a barbecue to raise funds for Cancer Research at the Kings Head, Llantwit Major, on July 26 at**

**4pm. There will be fun, games, and a raffle.**

**Classic cars FOLLOWING cancellation of the SWCCC show at Pencoed in May, the club is holding a smaller classic car show in Porthcawl, in conjunction with the Porthcawl Lions Club, on August 3 at the Porthcawl Rugby Club.**

This is to follow on from activities arranged by the Porthcawl Museum on the Saturday to mark the beginning of the Great War.

**Shadows Club ON August 12 at Penarth Conservative Club, Stanwell Road (029 2030 9979), South Wales Shadows Club meets. Admission £3; all welcome.**

### Family bike ride

**ON Sunday, September 7 at 2pm, the local committee for Cancer Research UK will be holding a sponsored family bike ride at the Porthcawl Rugby Club.**

Contact details for the route and sponsor forms from Winn Roberts (01656 782880), Sue Sharp (773670) and Diane Jones (784762).

Sponsor forms will also be available from the rugby club who are supporting Cancer Research on the day.

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# Adult learners are praised

**THE** achievements of more than 40 adult learners from across Bridgend county were celebrated at the annual Adult Community Learning awards ceremony, held in the Grand Pavilion.

The evening highlighted the successes of the learners since September 2013; whether academic, creative or personal. Tutors were also acknowledged with awards for their continual commitment to adult learning and student development.

New partnership awards were introduced for the first time, including Schools' Partnership Award, Pre-Employment Partnership Awards and Communities First Partnership Award.

A host of dignitaries attended and presented the learners with awards including: Carwyn Jones AM; Janice Gregory AM; Coun David Sage, Deputy Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council; cabinet members Coun Michael Gregory and Coun Phil White; the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Gary Thomas; Simon Pirotte, the principal of Bridgend College; Ian Hargreaves, from JobCentre Plus; and Liam Keeley, from Estyn.

Coun David Sage, Bridgend County Borough Council's Deputy Leader, said: "My cabinet colleagues and I congratulate all the learners for their achievements and the staff for their dedication and commitment to the adult learners programme."

"Adult Community Learning continues to be an important learning establishment for many people and time after time we see the benefits through the success of our learners – gaining confidence, developing new skills, attaining qualifications, and securing employment – some even starting up their own businesses."

"Learning is for everyone and the ACL provision caters for all abilities and tastes, offering an exciting and diverse course programme. For those interested in developing a new skill, gaining a qualification or simply discovering a new hobby, check out the ACL website to find out what's on offer this September."

To find out what courses are available this September, visit [www.bridgend.gov.uk/adultlearning](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk/adultlearning) or [www.aclbridgend.co.uk](http://www.aclbridgend.co.uk), telephone 01656 642729 or email [adultlearning@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:adultlearning@bridgend.gov.uk).



ABOVE: Carwyn Jones AM with learners.



ABOVE: Ian Hargreaves with an ACL learner.



ABOVE: Michael Gregory with ACL learners.



ABOVE: Coun David Sage with ACL tutors.

## Congratulations to Ysgol Cynwyd Sant!



ABOVE: Pete Thompson and Ann Lewis with members of the school's Fairtrade committee.

ANN LEWIS and Pete Thompson of the Bridgend County Fairtrade Group, presented Ysgol Cynwyd Sant with a Fairtrade netball and rugby ball, in recognition of their achievement in renewing Fairtrade status for the school earlier this year.

Pete reminded the children of the importance of Fairtrade in providing families with a fair price for their products enabling them to have food on the table and, most importantly, enabling their children to go to school.

Ann congratulated the pupils and teachers on their enthusiasm and ingenuity in finding ways to highlight and support Fairtrade, which this year included a competition to see which class could bring in Fairtrade logos from the widest range of products.

Ann and Pete thanked all at the school for their commitment to supporting Fairtrade, which has enabled Bridgend to become a Fairtrade county and Wales to become a Fairtrade country – the first in the world.



BELOW: Janice Gregory AM with learners.







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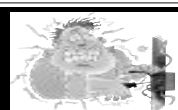
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## Congratulations

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love Mum & Derek.

(Well done Charlotte & George for helping Mummy so much).



## Family Notices

### EVANS Jean

The darling and much loved wife of Don. Loving and loved mother of Joanne and the late Michael. Cherished nan of Evan, Esme and Lenny who were her world. Jean fought and won many battles against ill health, but this was one too many for even her courage and determination. She will leave an unfillable gap in the lives of her many friends.

Resting at AG Adams & Son Tynewydd Funeral home, Gladstone Road Barry until her funeral service in the chapel on Monday July 21st at 1.00pm followed by cremation at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 2.15pm.

Family flowers only but donations to Marie Curie Hospice would be appreciated to help the fight against this most cruel disease. Our grateful thanks to the nurses and staff at Llandough Hospital and especially Marie Curie Hospice, whose care and affection for Jean was faultless.

### DAVID WYLIE

A gentle and caring man died peacefully on 30th June. Dearly loved and missed by his wife Joyce, and all his family.

Special thanks to Ward E18 Llandough Hospital for their kindness and support.

### LEA Mair

Mair Lea, aged 87, passed away peacefully in her sleep on 13th July 2014 at Edward Prince of Wales Court, Porthcawl. Loving mother to Carol, Barbara and Marian. Loving Mamma to Megan, Huw, Carwyn, Angharad, Rebecca and Tomos, Caitlin, Tamsin, Ryan and Lewis.

'Never more than a thought away,  
Loved and remembered every day.'

Funeral to take place Tuesday 22nd at 1.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend and afterwards at Edward Prince of Wales Court, Porthcawl. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if desired, to NSPCC and Kidney Research.

### TEBBY Sylvia

Peacefully on July 10 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Sylvia of Llantwit Major, beloved wife of John, dearly loved mother of the late Robert, and loving sister of Peter and the late Ray Mayle. Sylvia will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffônnon. Funeral Monday July 21, service 2.30pm at St. Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 3.45pm. Family flowers only to the funeral home, donations in lieu, if desired, to British Heart Foundation c/o J James, 11 Ffônnon Road, Rhosce, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

### LEWIS Gilbert

Peacefully on July 8 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Gilbert (Gib) of Llantwit Major, beloved husband of the late Vana, dearly loved father of Leigh and Kerry, father-in-law of Gary, much loved grandfather of Dean, Carl and Adam.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffônnon. Funeral Monday July 21, service and cremation 11.15am at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. No Flowers by request.

### GILBERTS Howard John

The family of Howard John Gilberts proprietor of the Homebrew Centre, Barry regret to announce that he passed away peacefully on 8th July 2014.

Resting at AG Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until his funeral service in the chapel at 11am on Tuesday, 22nd July 2014.

### E Ian Rees

21 July 1976 - 18 May 2010

Taken too soon, always in our thoughts, remembering the good times.

Family and friends will raise a glass on your birthday.

'Cheers E'

Primus Inter Pares

## MORRIS

### Mari Elizabeth Catherine

Peacefully, at Llandough Hospital Penarth on July 4th, Mari, aged 75 years, of Porthkerry Road, Barry.

Dearly loved sister of Patricia Corp, much loved aunt of Melanie, Justin and Caroline, loved by great nieces and nephews, Anwen, Taran, Evan, Emily, Freddy and Iestyn. Resting at AG Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until her reception into St. Helen's RC Church, Barry on Thursday July 17th at 4pm for her requiem mass on Friday July 18th at 10am, followed by cremation at The Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 11.15am. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

### SARA BUTLER nee ELLIS

Happy 40th  
Birthday, July 20,  
reunited with  
Dad, all our love,  
Mum & Nan x

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## Gardens open



THE following gardens are opening on the weekend of July 26 and 27, also Tuesday, July 29, as part of the National Gardens Scheme.

### Barry Gardens, Glamorgan, CF63 4PP

FOUR gardens of differing styles: 47 Aneurin Rd is an ever-changing small, vertical garden with a collection of over 30 clematis.

Cae Gwyn is a large secret garden with many attractive features incl a large pond, gravel garden, pergolas and sweeping lawns.

Number 28 Port Road is a mini smallholding with lots of creative, eccentric touches, lush, unmanicured, jungly feel with meandering path.

76 Port Road is a newly-developed garden with stunning views over the Vale, a wonderful old greenhouse, and newly planted borders with more to come

Open: July 26 (1pm-5.30) admission £5.

### Bolgoed Gardens, Bolgoed Road, Pontarddulais, Swansea, Glamorgan, SA4 8JP

CAEGLAS garden borders Bolgoed Ganol Farm. The planting is on many levels and incl streams with a lake and a woodland and bog garden.

A short stroll along the lake lies Bolgoed Ganol Farm cottage garden, with its circular lawn and pretty borders. 146 Bolgoed Road is a charming pretty garden with interesting planting

Open: July 26-27 (1pm-5pm) admission £3.

### Dinas Powys Village Gardens, Dinas Powys, Glamorgan, CF64 4TL

FIVE gardens in this friendly village, all with something different to offer: 1 Ashgrove is a plantaholic's garden based on permaculture principles, with many unusual perennials growing together with fruit, vegetable, a pond, woodland garden.

Brookleigh is a large garden, many specimen trees, three colourful herbaceous borders, plus a large established pond and a bog area.

Number 18 Mill Road is an urban garden created six years ago, from what was substantially a vegetable garden. Completely replanted, although still work in progress (isn't that always the case) it is reaching a very pleasant state of maturity.

30 Millbrook Road is a large beautiful family garden developed over 25 years with established pond plus several seating areas to relax in. Planting in sun and shade, mature trees and shrubs. Carport for rain refuge! 32 Millbrook Road is a large garden consisting of many 'rooms' with quirky design features, including a caravan playhouse.

Open: July 26-27 (12pm-5pm) admission £4.

### Overton and Port Eynon Gardens, Overton Lane, Porteynon, Swansea, Glamorgan, SA3 1NR

ON the beautiful Gower Peninsula, four very different gardens. One a flat cottage garden, one a steep sloping garden, one a plants man's garden and one a garden created from a deeply excavated site.

Enjoy views over The Bristol Channel while having teas at The Bays Farm in Overton.

Open: July 26(2pm-5.30pm) admission £4.

### 22 Llwyn Road, Cwmgor, Ammanford, Glamorgan, SA18 1RD

A well-established garden with mature trees, with newer elements added. The history garden is the latest edition and incl a stone circle! Two ponds, herbaceous borders, an alpine garden with cairn, woodland areas as well as fruit and vegetable plots provide lots of interest.

There is even a little secret garden hidden away with a quiet seating area.

Open: July 27, (2pm-5.30pm) admission £3.

### Bordervale Plants, Sandy Lane, Ystradowen, Cowbridge, Glamorgan, CF71 7SX

WITHIN mature woodland valley (semi-tamed), with stream and bog garden, extensive mixed borders; mini wild flower meadow, providing diverse wildlife habitats. Children must be supervised.

The nursery specialises in unusual perennials and cottage garden plants. Nursery open: Friday- Sunday (10am-5pm, (and often open Monday-Thursdays) March-September, when garden is also open May-September. NOT FOR NGSS.

Open: For NGSS: July 29 (10am-5pm) admission £3.

### Bryn-y-Ddafad, Welsh St Donats, Cowbridge, Glamorgan, CF71 7ST

SMALL courtyard garden with raised beds informally planted using pastel shades of annuals, perennials and small shrubs. The terraced rear garden has colourful raised beds and borders, mature trees and shrubs.

Lily pond with water feature. Recently constructed and planted pergola of roses leads to a bridge crossing the natural stream. New bog garden and small bank of rhododendrons and azaleas.

Open: July 29 (11am-5pm) admission £4.



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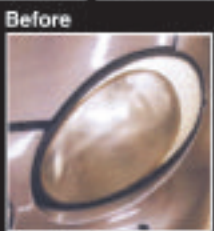
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## Local dancers have Motion for awards!

THE Local Motion Dance Company is celebrating several news awards.

They were awarded the Bronze INSPORT award for their commitment to inclusion and providing the only weekly dance class for children and young people with disabilities.

They were also winners at the 2014 Vale Youth Awards under the arts category, for the hard work and performances they have produced over the past year in the community. The street dance teams have both qualified to compete for Wales at the UDO World Streetdance Championships in Glasgow next month. ERA competed in the under18 novice section against many other teams from across the UK at the UDO British Championships earlier in the year and were placed third.

They also took part in the WDO Street Slam competition later on in the month and came home with lots of trophies from different categories.

Yasmin and Kia Harcourt came first in the little 'n' large, Hannah Bishop came second in the over 16 solo, our quad was awarded second place in the under 16s. ERA crew consisting of Kia Harcourt, Billie James-Cayton, Ryan Hodge, Keyleigh Borge, Hannah Bishop, and Harriet Knowles came third in the over 16 division, our dance teacher Yasmin came third in the teachers freestyle with Billie achieving fifth place in her under 16 solo and her duet with Ryan also being awarded fifth.

The children's team JuVenile recently won the under 12 WDO title along with Lloyd Williams who took first place in the under-12 solo and third in duos with Jasmin Miller. Tillie McKechnie was awarded third in her under-12 solo with Elise Butler in fifth place. Huge thanks goes to Olivia Shouler and Yasmin Harcourt for their hard work and great choreography with both dance groups.

Both teams are looking to raise funds to help them attend this prestigious event by undertaking various sponsored events at Waitrose where you can choose them for your token in the Community Matters scheme this month.

Their fundraising efforts have won them the Recognition Award at the 2014 Vale Youth Awards and they will be performing alongside other groups from Motion Control Dance at the Barry Rugby Club Fun Day on July 19 between 1pm-3pm and the Fire station Fun Day on July 26 between 12pm-2pm.

For more details of the dance programme that gives all children and young people living in the Vale 'A Chance 2 Dance', contact Emma Mallam, dance co-ordinator, on 07725038778 or visit [www.motioncontroldance.co.uk](http://www.motioncontroldance.co.uk).



## Cadet Jake leads the way in district sailing regatta

LAST weekend, Barry Sea Cadets hosted the south Wales district sailing regatta for Sea Cadets; with windsurfing, as well as four sailing classes, good winds made for some exciting sailing on Barry Docks.

Sub Lt (SCC) W D Elliott RNR said: "This was a very successful event with six out of the seven Sea Cadet units in south Wales taking part. Everyone had a great day and a lot of fun."

Cadet Jake Richardson from the Barry unit won

the topper class and will be going to HMS Excellent in Portsmouth at the end of the month to represent south Wales in the area competition.

He said: "It's fantastic to win, and I'm really looking forward to going on to the next stage of the competition. I'm glad I came to Cadets and learnt to sail."

Barry Sea Cadets parade on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and can be contacted by e-mail at [barryseacadets@gmail.com](mailto:barryseacadets@gmail.com).

Cadet Richardson being presented with the Topper trophy by Sub Lt (SCC) W Elliott.







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## Tough times for the Cowbridge lady bowlers

Cowbridge Lady bowlers played two away matches this week, first in the CCS at Llantwit Major, and then in the League at Rhooose, and they were defeated in both.

In the CCS match at Llantwit they lost 28-55, losing on all three rinks. The rink with Janet Morton, Sian Lewis, Shirley Wilkinson and Skip Joy Woolford lost 8-16.

Lynda Wilson, Dorothy Pritchard, Joan Bradley and Skip Pat Holdsworth lost 9-15, and the rink with Diane Lloyd, Phyllis Price, Sue Flower and Skip Kay Edwards lost 11-24.

In their league match against Rhooose, they lost 36-44 1/2, and sadly, Rhooose had to lose a 1/4 of their score on each rink as they only had 9 players. Cowbridge had one winning rink which was Janet Morton.

Diane Lloyd, Pat Davey and Skip Shirley Wilkinson, who won 15-13 1/2. Lynda Wilson, Joy Woolford, Pat Holdsworth and Skip Sue Flower's rink lost 11-13 1/2, and the rink with Diane Purnell, Sylvia Hole, Kay Edwards and Skip Joan Bradley lost 10-17 1/2. The ladies have two home matches next week.

The men had a win - at last - in a Munro Cup match at home against a weakened Barry Central side with only 14 players, so they lost 1/4 of their

score on 2 rinks. The rink with Colin Wilson, Bryan Hole, Guy Morton and

Skip Byron Richards just won 12-8 1/4. On Len Taylor, Mick Davey, Rob Lewis and Skip John Trott's rink they won well 17-8 1/4. The rink with Gerwyn Watkins, Jim Hewlett, Peter Lauder and Skip Ron Frayling just won 19-17, but on the rink with Terry Dunsworth, Ron Woolford, Clive Pritchard and Skip Norman Wilkinson, they sadly lost 13-14 after dropping 3 shots on the last end.

In our League match at home to Llantrisant, we lost 64-98, but won on two rinks, and if the rink with Terry Dunsworth, Bryan Hole, Byron Richards and Skip Norman Wilkinson hadn't been beaten by an excellent Llantrisant team, losing by 7 shots to 45, the game would have been a lot closer!

The two winning rinks were: Clive Pritchard, Len Taylor, Guy Morton and Skip Mike Bradley with a very good win 21-13, and Skip Roger Barwick's rink with Mansel Davey, Rob Lewis, John Jones, who won 17-15. The rink with Charles Sanders, Peter Lauder, Brian Williams and Skip John Trott, lost 19-25. We are playing away next week against top of the table Senghenydd!

NJW

## Double triumph for Tim Vaughan

Aberthin's Tim Vaughan landed a double at Uttoxeter last week, with Nathan's Pride and Spanish Optimist.

The former won the opening two mile hurdle and the latter took the two mile and four furlong chase.

Nathan's Pride, who was ridden by Alan Johns, won by four-and-a-half lengths from

You've Been Moved and the Richard Johnson-partnered Spanish Optimist scored by seven lengths from Alf The Audacious.

Llancafan's Evan Williams was successful at the recent Stratford meeting with Buck Mulligan who, under stable jockey Paul Moloney, won by three

and a quarter lengths from Seventh Sky.

BRIAN LEE

## Latest results at Millwood Bowling Club

RESULTS for June 26, Munro Cup (home):

Millwood 68, Barry Central 61, Division 3 (home); Millwood 90, Romilly A 60; Division 5 (away); Millwood A 64, Llantrisant A 107, June 29, A Martin Memorial Cup (home); Millwood 43, Penarth 40, July 7, Munro Cup (home); Millwood 63, Barry Athletic 64, July 5, Division 3 (home); Millwood 79, Romilly A 60; Division 5 (away); Millwood A 90, Llantwit Major A 66, July 12, Division 5 (home); Millwood A 82, Ely 100.

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## 'CASUAL' DAY FOR THE WANDERERS

ON a breezy, sunny day at Hayes Point, Sully, Barry Wanderers entertained local rivals Cardiff Casuals in a very friendly cricketing affair.

Losing the toss, skipper Andy Fenton was asked to field, and Dafydd Howell was keeper for the day. Fenton and young Theo Richards opened up the attack and both were soon in the wickets, Fenton with a simple caught and bowled off a slower ball, and Richards with a wicket caught by Henry Dawson.

Mason-Wickes for the Casuals, dug in and was aggressive when the bowling was loose. Young Grant Buckingham was so unlucky not to have a wicket in his spell of 6-0-28-0 – the BWCC fielders not quite hanging on to a couple of touch chances.

Sam Harris bowled from his nemesis end but took two wickets in his spell of 7-1-33-2. Guest West Ender Neil Holmes also was very tight with 7-4-17-0, and runs were hard to come by for the Casuals.

With Dan Bowles chipping in with a wicket, excellently caught by the diving Paul Sawyer, and Dawson mopping up

the tail with his under-used wicket to wicket medium pacers, the Casuals ended up on 151 all out with Mason-Wickes contributing 70, and Ed Stewart 29.

After an unrivalled tea, BWCC opened their innings with Bowles and Sawyer who both needed an early bath due to work and musical commitments. Bowles went caught behind for 8, Sawyer for a swift 17 and when Sam Harris mis-timed his drive to cover, BWCC were in bother at 47 for 3.

Another visiting West Ender, Rhys Howell's experience and aggressive stroke-play dominated the bowling. Skipper Fenton joined him at the crease, and with a little bit of luck and some well executed shots along the way, the total was chased down.

Towards the end of the chase, Howell reached his 50 and ended on 57 not out. Fenton also achieved his 50 and won the game with his third six into the trees, BWCC winning by seven wickets.

Thanks to those involved for making the day happen, and to the tea ladies for ensuring the chaps were fed and watered.

AF

## School achieves success!

ONCE again the Cadoxton Schools of Tae Kwon Do represented Barry as they travelled to Cheltenham where over 250 competitors from all over the UK converged to take part in the Global Tae Kwon Do open Championships.

Six gold, six silver and five bronze were the rewards for a successful day competing for the Cadoxton Taekwondo school students.

The championship started with the pattern categories where Jessie Blackley took first place and the gold in her category. Competing for the first time young Cameron Evans who took a credible second place in his pattern category.

In the Pee Wee point



sparrring category, we had Mad, Maddison Allen, who battled her way into the final to eventually take the silver and second place.

Competing for the first time we had Cameron Evans and Ethan Andrus, Cameron was in the boys lightweight point sparring, Ethan in the boys middleweight point sparring was competing, even though he recently had his big toe nail removed. He did extremely well just missing out on a podium place, while Cameron fought well to come home with the bronze.

In the girls lightweight point sparring, we had Jessie Blackley, Jessie dominated her category with her kicking ability Jessie went on to take first place and her second gold of the day, while in the boy's Middleweight continuous sparring

category we had Cian Allen - having fought through the rounds Cian eventually he came away with second place.

Competing in the boys lightweight continuous sparring, Cody Jacobsen, being the smallest in his category, took his bigger opponent into extra time twice, with the bout finally being decided by one point Cody taking third place.

Competing in the boys blue belt Middleweight continuous sparring, Joel Wells showed that all his hard work in classes had paid off to come away with third place and the bronze. In the boys light heavyweight continuous sparring category, Mason Blackley gave a good account of himself, taking his opponent into extra time twice, with the referee having to make the final decision he gave the bout to Mason's

opponent. Having gone up a category into the boys heavyweight section, Matthew Bennett competed in the point and continuous sparring found himself up against much bigger opponents just losing out in the point sparring; Matthew went on to take a very hard fought third place in the continuous category.

Also competing up a category into the girls light heavyweight point and continuous sparring categories, we had Lucy Newman. Giving a good account of herself competing against bigger and older opponents Lucy came away with a third in point and a second place in continuous sparring.

In the women's lightweight point & continuous sparring sections, we had both Keita Enfield and Anita Sheppard, Anita taking third place in the point

sparring, while Keita went on to take first and the gold. In the women's lightweight continuous sparring both Anita and Keita fought their way into the final with Anita coming away with second and Keita taking her second gold of the day.

Dominating the boys middleweight point and continuous sparring sections, Bradley Halford took first place and the gold in both his categories making Bradley and Keita double National Open Champions.

*Pictured above are Bradley Halford, Matthew Bennett, Anita Sheppard, Cian Allen, Ethan Andrus, Ron Thomas (instructor), Jessie Blackley, Cody Jacobsen, Joel Wells, Cameron Evans and Maddison Allen. Missing are Keita Enfield, Mason Blackley and Lucy Newman.*

RT

## LLANTWIT LADY BOWLERS ENJOY SUCCESSFUL WEEK

THE sun shone and our ladies enjoyed a very successful week.

On Monday we welcomed Millwood to play a rearranged league fixture and won on 2 rinks: L. Crouch, M. Horgan, E. Nichols, C. Willmot 20-14; K. Johnes, P. Pike, J. Molloy, M. Morgan 23-7. Unfortunately Etta's rink, H. Tilley, V. Bael, D. Hurley, and E. Gray, although playing against three, had a tough game losing 13-17 1/4.

On Tuesday, we were more fortunate, winning on all three rinks against Cowbridge in the CCS. Usually, Cowbridge quickly adjust to our green, but they found it difficult on Tuesday.

The teams were E. Hardie, P. Brown, D. Hurley, J. Molloy, 24-11; K. Johnes, L. Oatley, M. Morgan, 16-8; M. Horgan, M. Andrews, V. Bael, E. Nichols, 15-9. Our new bowlers excelled.

On Thursday, Barry Central came to play a league game and we managed to take the full 10 points, a little better than when we played them at Barry Central when we came away with only 4 points although winning on 2 of the 3 rinks.

The teams were K. Johnes, P. Pike, V. Bael, M. Lewis, 21-18; L. Crouch, N. Horgan, E. Nichols, C. Willmot, 29-10; E. Hardie, D. Hurley, J. Molloy, M. Morgan, 29-11 1/4. Carol Willmot

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# STUDENTS PROSPER IN TOURNAMENT!



**ON June 21, Barry Kyokushin took nine junior students to the Cadet Knockdown Kyokujitsu tournament, Little Hadham, Herts.**

Barry Kyokushin took home one gold, one silver and two bronze places, as well as first place in the synchronised Team Kata (pattern) section.

Lucy Chick received third place for the 10-12 year olds (under 145cm) after showing great determination in all fights. Josie Allen took home a much-deserved third place in the 9 year old category

after two strong fights. Cerys Case took home silver and impressed everyone in her three fights in the 5-6 year olds (under 110cm).

After five incredible fights, Justine Bolanos shone and took gold for the 7-8 year olds (over 125cm) division, as well as first place along with Ben Bolanos and Lianne Lirio for synchronised Team Kata, beating all eight teams that entered.

The Barry team received praise from many of the other competitors and heads and chief referee of the IKKU for their skill and standard.

Barry Kyokushin is incredibly proud of all junior students who attended and fought, every student showed fantastic spirit, fighting ability and all were incredibly humble.

Senpai Phill Sedgmond commented: "All the juniors that attended this tournament throughout the UK showed incredible spirit.

"Some had a wealth of fighting experience; our juniors went up to their first-ever cadet knockdown tournament and they really shook up their more experienced and sometimes much bigger opponents."



"It really was a proud moment for me. A massive congratulation is in order for Sam Allen, Matt Mielniczuk, Tomek Czynniki, Lianne Lirio and Ben Bolanos, who although they didn't place at this tournament, trained very hard and showed great spirit and determination."

Barry Kyokushin train on Monday and Wednesday at 6.30pm-7.30pm for juniors, and 7.30pm-9.00pm for seniors, and Sunday 10am-11.30am.

To find out more visit them on Facebook or at [www.bkkc.co.uk](http://www.bkkc.co.uk) or contact Phill Sedgmond on 01446 408974.

PS

## Petanque titles hotly contested

**THE Welsh Petanque Association (WPA) national competitions are excellent arena for players to prove their ability, in a competitive but friendly environment.**

The national over-55 triples championship took place in Wenvoe Petanque Club was won by Kon Tomczyk, Barbara Vaughan (both of Caerleon RFC PC) and Phil Bradshaw (Monkstone Inn PC).

Between June 27 and 29, a Welsh squad comprising Kon. Barbara, Jake Caston and Peter Beresford, represented Wales at the European Veteran's Championship in Luleå, Sweden.

The ladies triples, was held on April 6 at Monkstone PC, in Roath. The winners were Julie Bailey, Gay Evans (both

of Monkstone Inn PC) and Gemma Foster (of Wheatshaf PC).

Currently the team are in Luxembourg taking part in a European competition, by invitation.

Representatives of the ladies team will then be playing in the Women's European Championship in Mersin, Turkey, in September. We wish them luck!

On May 28, Kon Tomczyk won the National Shooting Championship at Caerleon RFC PC. On June 1, playing in Brecon RFC PC, the doubles championship was taken by Richard Harris and Kon (both of Caerleon RFC PC).

If you are interested in finding out more about the sport, please visit our website [www.welshpetanque.or.uk](http://www.welshpetanque.or.uk)

JS

## PREGNANT ALAITZ DELIVERS GOLF TITLE!

**A woman golfer is looking forward to giving birth in a couple of months, after helping to deliver the Welsh Ladies Team Championship for her club.**

Southerdown's Alaitz Zubikarai was 29 weeks pregnant when she won the deciding match on the 19th hole at centenary-celebrating Whitchurch golf club.

The club are planning a champagne reception next month to celebrate the achievement by the team.

Zubikarai played every round leading up to the final against a strong Newport team, with two of the final matches going down to the 19th hole and both being won by Southerdown.

Southerdown captain Norma Barber was delighted with the win. "It was thrilling, we were not expected to win because Newport have such a strong team with

three internationals. We were losing and I could not see any way back.

"Rachel Lewis had an eagle to win her match, Georgia Lewis was three down at one point but got a birdie on the 19th to win – and then it all came down to Alaitz.

"She was 29 weeks pregnant and had played in the morning, though an easy win then had helped. She missed a putt on 17 to win and then went in the water on the 18th because she was so tired by then.

"She was worn out but had to go up the 19th but won it then. She played so well but was so tired by the end. Everybody was ecstatic and ran to her all crying, we could not believe what had happened.

"Whitchurch was a wonderful course for the event, it was in beautiful condition, and we could go out and celebrate in Cardiff afterwards – though Alaitz went home because she was so tired!"

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# Dropped 'catch' costs the Vale Firsts dear

**The Vale Firsts played Whitchurch Heath Firsts at Corntown and Whitchurch won by three wickets after the Vale batted first.**

Although Vale Firsts succumbed to another defeat the performance was much better than the previous week. Vale maintained their record of winning every single toss this season and decided to bat first.

Steady progress was made, not withstanding Jonny Davies having to retire hurt having taken a blow to the helmet.

Vale lost their first wicket with the score on 36 and regular wickets fell throughout the innings, with starts being made but no batsman going on to make a sizeable innings.

On returning to the fray, Davies was bowled for 29 and starts were made by Billy Yates 16, Paul Sheppard 15 and Mark Francis 13.

Gareth Andrews batted very well in the middle order for 30 and it was left to Ollie Pike, with another very useful innings of 26 not out, to take the Vale's score passed 200.

Vale finally finished on 202-9 off their 50 overs with Mo Khan producing the best bowling figures of 3-38 for Whitchurch Heath.

Darren Upham struck early with Sheppard taking a catch at slip via an assist from wicket keeper Andrews.

A lively spell from Pike went unrewarded. Vale turned to spin and an outstanding bit of stumping by Andrews off Davies accounted for Whitchurch Heath captain Tibbs.

A very well judged catch by Davies at extra cover off Matthew Williams accounted for the home side's third wicket.

With their opener R Pearce looking a threat he skied one off Davies only for Francis to put the catch down, an error that would prove to be costly for Vale as the match progressed.

Francis was then introduced to the attack and with Davies restricted the opposition's scoring rate as well as making some inroads into their middle order.

Another good catch behind by Andrews off Davies and 2 wickets by Francis had Whitchurch 106-6, putting the odds on victory in Vale's favour but frustrating Pearce twice edged behind off Davies without being given out.

At the end of their spells Davies finished with 2-26 and Francis with 2-27 both off 10 overs.

Unfortunately, Pearce gave Vale another chance before completing his century only for Francis to again drop a low chance at mid off.

Pike returned to pick up Vale's seventh wicket by bowling Pearce for 102 but it was too late to prevent Whitchurch Heath reaching their target in the 47th over.

This was a vast improvement in performance from Vale and a game they could and probably should have won.

Vale's bowling figures were Ollie Pike 9.3-2-49-1; Darren Upham 8-0-36-1; JJ Davies 10-2-26-2; Matthew Williams 7-0-42-1; Mark Francis 10-1-27-2, and Billy Yates 2-0-16-0.

MF

## Barry Chess Club attends first Colwyn Bay Congress

**IT is pleasing to note that Barry Chess Club players turn up at all sorts of events all over the place. Barry Chess Club was the only East Glamorgan club to be represented at the recent first Colwyn Bay Congress.**

Craig Woolcock took part in a very strong 5 round event. His 5 opponents had an average rating of 2238.

To put this into context there are only 8 Welsh registered players with an individual rating above this average.

Craig performed admirably, beating a 2018 Rated player and drawing with players rated 2172 and 2202, to return with 2 points from a possible 5 and earning 19 Ratings points in the process.

In the final round, Craig was drawn against a GM in Keith Arke who has a rating of 2555.

Although Craig lost this particular match, he will have learned a lot and will have come back a much stronger player for the experience.

I was unable to attend the recent Welsh Chess Union AGM, but instead, arranged for a representative to attend this meeting to give me a report on the proceedings.

I received a very concise and accurate report, until it came to the appointment of a new registration secretary.

I was informed that this post is now held by

"a bloke from Gwent!"

On the understanding that there are many males currently living in Gwent, I fail to see how I can trace this gentlemen should the need arise!

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7:30 pm each Monday at the West End Club, St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards, whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or an occasional friendly game.

New players are welcome to turn up on the night, but contact a club member for full information about the night in question.

For more details, visit our website at <http://barrychessclub.yol.asite.com>

PHIL JONES

## Barrivale results

**LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for July 8:**

First, Mike Best and Mark Roderick 66.19 per cent; second, Mike Close and Denis Mottram 63.81 per cent; third, Kay Dyer and Noelle Bond 60.95 per cent. Mike Best and Mark Roderick also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

DR

# VALE RESORT KEEPS CHLOE IN THE SWIM!

**THE Vale Resort in Hensol is helping drive Wales' medal hopes at this summer's Commonwealth Games, by donating a car to a promising young swimmer.**

Chloe Tutton (17), from the Rhondda, currently holds national Welsh swimming records in the 200m breaststroke, 200m individual medley and 400m individual medley, as well as being part of the record-holding 4 x 100m free team.

Chloe will now be part of the 23-strong swimming squad representing Wales at the Commonwealth Games, which kicks off in Glasgow on July 23, competing in the 200m breaststroke and 4 x 100m medley team.

Miss Tutton's coach, Olympic swimming mastermind Dave Haller, approached the Vale Resort for support to get the young hopeful to the Games. Gerald Leeke, Vale Resort and Leekes retail Group Chairman was only too happy to help, providing a car to help with the burgeoning transport costs associated with attending training and competitions.

Paul Beddoe, sales



Thumbs up for medal hopes!

and marketing director, this month and we are all at this year's the Vale Resort, said: excited to follow Chloe's Commonwealth Games, taking place in Glasgow fantastic young talent Wales will be between July 27-August competing in Glasgow represented in 17 sports 3.

## VALE SECONDS' INNINGS 'FALLS AWAY' AT THE END

**VALE SECONDS lost to Whitchurch Heath Seconds on Saturday, July 12, by eight wickets.**

Having secured a very good win last week, the Vale Seconds slumped to a heavy defeat in Cardiff at table toppers Whitchurch Heath.

The home side won the toss and asked Vale to make first use of the wicket.

Richard Evans, promoted to the opening role, raced to 36, including 7 boundaries, and scored 36 out of the 39 run opening partnership before being caught.

Skipper for the day Steve Harper departed without troubling the scores but son, Matthew, along with the steady Aaron Stephens, got the score to 82 before being adjudged lbw for 18.

When Aaron Stephens fell for a well made 37 the innings fell away but not

before some defiance from Adam Jones who made 15. Vale finished 132 all out in the 44th over.

In truth Vale never looked like winning this game as a 53 run opening partnership set Whitchurch Heath on their way to a comfortable win.

A catch by Mark Stephens off Matt Harper and a wicket for Adam Jones ensure that Vale picked up a bowling point as the home side reached their target in the 29th over for the loss of 2 wickets. Adam Jones completed a good personal day's work with figures of 9-4-23-1.

Vale's bowling figures were Kevin Jones 3-0-32-0, Matt Harper 6-0-28-1, Adam Jones 9-4-23-1, Alex Upham 5-1-19-0, Gerwyn Teague 3-2-0-19-0 and Tom Harper 2-0-9-0.

MF

## Cadoxton bowlers are on form... Home clash against Abercynon

**On Saturday, July 12, Cadoxton were the hosts for the ML4 match against Abercynon with the outcome a victory for Cadoxton.**

Once again the top rink was skipped by Kelvin Chedgoy. They took the lead on the third end with a '4' and held it throughout. This was followed by a 1, 2, 3, and another 4 to open a 12 shot advantage.

By the 18th end the difference was 16 shots, when two '3's were conceded, but almost recovered with '4' on the last.

Howard Craven's rink started with a winning streak of 8 ends for a 13 - 0 lead. A single stopped the run and with a '5' two ends later the advantage was reduced to eight.

Another winning period brought the score to 23 - 6. Five of the final 6 ends brought success to the visitors but the home side finished comfortably winners.

Don Kuhnell skipped his rink to a 12 - 5 lead before a '4' was scored against.

Six shots were scored in the next 5 ends, but then a good period for the visitors brought them to within two shots. This was improved by a '3' on the next with two ends left, but reduced with a '2'.

On the final end the

opposing skip trailed the jack behind a bunch of five of his bowls. This was converted to just three to tie the game.

John Jones had a close beginning on his rink. The scores were tied after nine ends, but with only 3 more scoring ends the opponents built a big score including two '5's in the closing stages.

Scores: L. Davies, S. Clarke, D. Brook, H. Craven 25 12; P. Swannick, R. Harding, P. Ellis, K. Chedgoy 29 15; I. Robertson, D. Evans, G. Davies, D. Kuhnell 21 21; G. Solomon, A. Carpenter, D. Jeffries, J. Jones 15 31. Final score: 90 - 79.

On the same day, Cadoxton 'A' clashed with Caerphilly Social in MLS.

Despite going down on all four rinks, the Cadoxton A side turned in a creditable performance against top of division Caerphilly Social.

New recruit Arthur Field played well on his introduction to league bowls and other Cadoxton players fought equally valiantly.

Skip David Tuck said that he had never used as much chalk in a game as he did on the many touchers of lead bowler Ewan Heppenstall and team captain David Fanning.

Final score: 102 - 38

DK

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# Glamorgan GEM Sport

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## Local pupils in Race for Life

PUPILS and staff from St Clare's School in Porthcawl took part in their own 'Race for Life' event, as a way of raising money for Cancer Research UK.

Everyone was sponsored to complete a run of 5km, 3km or 1km. The fact that it was the last week of a very busy term didn't deter the pupils from the senior school, and neither did a sudden downpour of rain on the afternoon!

Many pupils and staff members took part in the race in fancy dress, and some participants even attempted to complete the race 'three-legged', in a bid to raise as much sponsorship money as possible.

Alongside the race, other fundraising activities such as a charity auction, cake sale and the option to come to school in non-uniform for the day helped boost the total. The current total raised by St Clare's stands at a hugely impressive £1,999, all of which goes to Cancer Research UK.



If any GEM readers would like to donate to this wonderful cause, please visit [www.justgiving.com/stclares](http://www.justgiving.com/stclares).

Well done, and thank you to everyone who took part.

Special congratulations to the first three runners to pass the finish line: Connor Brace (year-8), Lance Burn (year-9) and Chris Matthews (year-9).

JH

## Golf's qualifying event proves quite the draw!

THE qualifying event for this year's Senior Open Championship Presented by Rolex has attracted a near record number of entries, with almost 500 players attempting to join iconic names such as Bernhard Langer, Colin Montgomerie, Tom Watson and Ian Woosnam in the field at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club.

Three courses - Ashburnham Golf Club, Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club and Southerndown Golf Club - will host the Monday qualifying event on July 21, with the total field across the venues within touching distance

of last year's record number at Royal Birkdale. Each venue will welcome around 130 qualifiers, with players travelling from all corners of the globe to vie for approximately 30 spots in the Championship at Royal Porthcawl from Thursday July 24-27, which itself already has more than 110 exempt players.

The influx of nearly 500 golfers, and the entourages they bring with them, will provide a significant economic boost to the regions. This benefit will only increase during the week of the tournament, with thousands of spectators expected for the 28th edition of the Championship.

The credentials of all three qualifying venues

are excellent, and should act as perfect preparation for those who earn their place in the tournament proper.

Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club hosted the Senior Ladies British Open Amateur Championship in 2009 and has twice assisted with the stroke play rounds of The Amateur Championship.

Southerndown Golf Club, another superb Welsh links course, was opened in 1905 and designed by a number of leading architects, including Willie Fernie, Herbert Fowler, Willie Park, Harry Colt and Donald Steel.

It hosted the Martini International in 1968, won by home favourite Brian Huggett, as well as the Piccadilly Medal in 1970 and 1971.

Tickets for The 2014 Senior Open Championship Presented by Rolex at Royal Porthcawl can be bought online via [www.senioropengolf.com](http://www.senioropengolf.com) or by calling +44 (0)800 0232557, with details of the hospitality packages also available.

## Experience counts in a Porthcawl bridge tournament



The Martha Davis Cup winners.

Age is definitely no bar to a player's ability to win at Porthcawl Bridge Club.

The club recently held the Martha Davis Cup competition, a team-of-four event in which pairs are randomly drawn with their team-mates.

This year's event was narrowly won by the team of Sheila Storer, Megan Taylor, Keith Davison, and Tony Haworth, with Sheila now approaching 101 years young.

In the runners-up team, Mildred Trigg-Knight is approaching 100 years old, but still playing with the same ability as 75 years ago.

Recent results are as follows:

Saturday, June 28. First - Trish Saunders and Maurice Harris; second - Hazel and Colin Heard.

Monday, June 30. First - Gary Williams and Tony Haworth; second - Trish Saunders and Pat Haworth.

Thursday, July 3. Martha Davis Cup - Sheila Storer; Megan Taylor; Keith Davison; Tony Haworth; runners-up - Mildred Trigg-Knight; Audrey Tinkler; Colin and Lavinia Thomas.

Saturday, July 5. First - Dian Jones and Kath Grossey; second - Roger Plant and Betty Longley.

Monday, July 7. First - Terry Dolan and Roger Plant; second - Pat Haworth and Janet Richards.

Thursday, July 10. First equal - Keith Davison and Tony Haworth; Roger Plant and Terry Dolan.

A reminder to all members that the Summer Triathlon event starts on Saturday, July 26, for three Saturdays - with players' best two weeks from three counting towards good prizes.

The club meets three times a week - Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, and Monday at the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel 7pm-10.15 pm. Visitors are welcome at any time.

TH

## Kickboxers in Welsh Rumble



THE second Welsh Rumble took place at Warriors Gym on June 29.

Kickboxing clubs from across south Wales were invited to the WKU (Welsh Kickboxing Union) run event. The competition started at 12pm with children's points fighting, and progressed through adults points and light contact kickboxing, and finally to Welsh title points and substrike fights.

At the end of the 40 fights local club Bridgend Warriors had succeeded in securing 14 wins. Claire Vicker, Ryan Parry and Cai Copp, all from the club, each fought through their categories to become Welsh title holders.

Jack Harding, Emma Jopling, and Ryan Doyle from the Warriors beginners' class also won their fights gaining invaluable fighting experience and reflecting the high standard of instruction.

The event is the second in a series of fight events planned by WKU which are open to the public. Spectators are able to come along and support the fighters and enjoy the atmosphere of kickboxing competition. Food is available along with a fully licensed bar.



Bridgend Warriors gym is housed in the old bowlers bowling alley above Sax nightclub.

Warriors instructor and head of WKU, Master Jeff Copp, 7th degree black belt, has transformed the bowling alley into a modern kickboxing gym stripping out the lanes and rebuilding the floor. Mats have been fitted and bags, mirrors and a boxing ring have been erected.

The club is open seven days a week with a timetable of classes geared to all members of the community. Adults and children of all abilities are welcome to train either through the belt system, for competition or simply for fun and fitness.

As well as kickboxing training there are also fitness classes aimed at all levels. The club runs a pay as you train system so there are no contracts or obligations to train. All instructors are qualified to a high standard and include several world champions. All are experienced at working with children and adults of all abilities.

For more information about training with Bridgend Warriors, Kickboxing in Wales or the next Welsh Rumble please contact 07538605838, [www.kickboxingbridgend.co.uk](http://www.kickboxingbridgend.co.uk), or find us on Facebook. The next rumble will take place on Sunday, August 17.

DA

## Bridgend Bridge Club results

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are for Wednesday, July 9.

First were John Beard and Tony Disley; second, Peter Bugden and Geoff Barnes; third, Marjorie Morris and Bill Turner.

On Friday, July 11: First, Liam Sheridan and Alan Williams; second, Jane Brook and Wendy Williams; third, Dian Jones and Pat Cogbill.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesdays and Fridays at Noltan Church Hall at 7pm. We try to start at 7pm so it helps if people arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursdays from 2pm to 5pm, also at Noltan Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions for the less experienced where assistance is readily available.

The best placed improvers for July 3 were Dilys Powell, Mike Williams, Teresa Griffiths and Linda Jenkins

A new series of lessons will commence on Thursday September 18 at 11 am, also at Noltan Church Hall. These are primarily for beginners and those who have played some bridge and would like to improve both their bidding and card play. To book a place on the course or to obtain more information contact John Evans on 01656 880372.

DN

## Blue Bulls still dream of a home play-off

Bridgend Blue Bulls kept their hopes of a home play-off place alive with a convincing 54-16 victory over Cardiff Spartans.

Without many of their regular starters, Dale Wood moved from the backs into the forwards for the match and looked right at home in the pack as he grabbed a hat-trick.

Paul Songhurst touched down twice with Xavier Manaseitava, Nathan Trowbridge and Bulls' veteran, Craig Fox also grabbing tries.

The game started slowly with both teams testing each other out. Bridgend had to remain patient but it wasn't long until the scoring was opened when Matthew Davies switched with winger, Manaseitava before he touched down in the corner.

Cardiff hit back immediately, making the most of some lacklustre defence from the Bulls, crossing for

an easy try beneath the sticks.

The Bulls became frustrated, dropping balls and gifting possession to the opposition frequently but they eventually re-established the lead as Songhurst powered over from a tap penalty.

Trowbridge then crossed out wide after Alex King and Lee Harben-Jones linked up, confusing the Cardiff defence.

The half came to an end as Fox took a snipe down the blindside, catching his opponents unaware and the hooker managed to weave his way over to put further daylight between the two teams.

Bridgend remained on top in the second half with Wood scoring early on. King, again involved, popped inside to the winger-cum-prop and he raced in to score under the posts.

The ill-disciplined Spartans were down to 11 men as Songhurst grabbed his second of the match soon after. A quick penalty saw Cardiff exposed out wide

and the centre coasted through the defence to score.

The Spartans had a spell of dominance in the match and managed to touch down twice in quick succession before the Bulls managed to recompose themselves. Wood was on the score sheet once more as a patient set gave the Bulls strong field position. The prop displayed his versatility as he found himself at dummy-half, only to pick up and score again.

The kick off fell straight back to Wood, who coasted through the defence like a hot knife through butter.

The man of the match touched down to complete his hat-trick. The scoring was complete when late call-up, Mitch John gathered the ball from kick off, replicating Wood's final try, except with a little less speed and guile.

ALED DAVIES